

## Lebanese premier opens talks in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri met in Damascus on Wednesday to discuss the plight of Palestinian refugees and stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks. Officials said the talks were aimed at forging a unified position before a tour of the region this month by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who would seek to get the 15-month-old Middle East talks back on track. Mr. Hariri will visit Egypt after Syria. Reports from Beirut said Lebanese officials may refuse to meet Mr. Christopher on his upcoming tour unless the encounter takes place in their country. Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Wednesday urged the government to endorse a request by Foreign Minister Faris Bouzeq to refuse any meeting with Mr. Christopher outside Lebanon. For the Lebanese, holding the meeting within their borders is an important reassertion of national sovereignty following the anarchy of the 15-year civil war that ended in October 1990.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

## Syria, Iran and Turkey back Iraqi unity

DAMASCUS (R) — The foreign ministers of Syria, Iran and Turkey reaffirmed Wednesday their commitment to maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq. The ministers, in a statement ending consultations in Damascus, urged Baghdad to comply with U.N. resolutions and international law, but also called for international efforts to minimise the burden on the Iraqi people. "The ministers reaffirm the great importance they attach to the preservation of the unity and the territorial integrity of Iraq," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said, reading a joint communique in English. But he said the ministers, holding their second meeting in three months, "believe that the future of Iraq should be determined by the free will of the whole people of Iraq on the basis of the principle of unity, democracy and good neighbourly relations." Mr. Sharaa spoke at a news conference with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati and Turkey's Hikmet Cetin. He said they would closely follow developments in Iraq and would meet again in June in Tehran.

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## Washington launches Bosnia initiative

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Wednesday the United States was willing to join a multilateral enforcement of a peace settlement in Bosnia including the possible use of military force. Mr. Christopher announced a new U.S. initiative saying President Bill Clinton "believes it is time for the United States to become actively and directly engaged in the multilateral effort to reach a just and workable solution to this very dangerous conflict." As part of a six-step plan for ending the conflict, Mr. Christopher named Reginald Bartholomew, a career foreign service officer who is the U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), special envoy to deal with the crisis. He said the administration would be "prepared to do its share to help implement and enforce" a ceasefire agreement "including possible U.S. military action."

"This conflict may be far from our shores but it is certainly not distant from our concerns," Mr. Christopher said.

The secretary of state said the president was seeking creation of a war crimes tribunal to punish those responsible for atrocities.

Saying the U.S. government was repulsed by the brutal "ethnic cleansing" campaign being waged by Serbs against Muslims, Mr. Christopher said:

"Our conscience revolts at the idea of passively accepting such brutality."

He said Clinton had decided that "the United States will actively engage in the Vance-Owen negotiations, bringing the full weight of American diplomacy to bear."

"We do not expect miracles but we believe we can make a difference," Mr. Christopher added.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and former British Foreign Secretary Lord Owen have led the international mediation effort and produced a plan accepted by some European powers but not by the Serbs, Muslims or the United States.

Sporadic clashes in Bosnia, page 8

## Israel lets lawyers see Arab-Americans

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, bowing to U.S. pressure, said Wednesday it was letting lawyers see three Palestinian Americans it detained last month on suspicion of ties to militant Islamic groups. An Israeli official who declined to be named said Washington had sent Israel two formal complaints since the arrests more than two weeks ago. Israel said last month it had detained U.S. citizens Mohammad Salah, Mohammad Alarad and Mohammad Omar as suspected activists in Hamas. Salah met with his lawyer on Jan. 31. Omar will meet his lawyer today, and Alarad will meet by the end of this week, the official said Wednesday. The three were arrested in the occupied West Bank and have appeared before military courts. They have not been charged.

## Rafsanjani denies Iran aids terrorism

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Wednesday denied claims that he engaged in "terrorism" or made excessive arms purchases. "Although the Iranian people have been a victim of terrorism more often than other countries, certain people in the world accuse the Islamic Republic of terrorism," Mr. Rafsanjani said, quoting a statement by the Islamic public news agency (IRNA) that he told a gathering of foreign journalists and representatives of international organisations based in Tehran that Iran had been "fed up" with terrorism for years. "They have not proved even a single case," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

## Israeli troops kill two 15-year-olds in Gaza

### Dozens shot and wounded; girls' school stormed and tear-gassed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians and injured dozens in clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said two Palestinians, both 15-year-olds, were writing graffiti on a wall in the Nuseirat refugee camp on behalf of the Palestinian People's Party, a communist group, when Israeli soldiers opened fire and killed them.

The deaths brought to 12 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli troops since last Friday.

The army confirmed soldiers killed two Palestinians but gave a different account of the circumstances of the incident.

"During an operation of the security forces... a force encountered a cell of masked uniformed men armed with knives and axes," a military official said.

"The masked men threatened the commander of the force with knives and the force reacted by shooting them."

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip said soldiers manning an army post in Jabalya refugee camp shot and wounded at least 38 Palestinians when a crowd of youths repeatedly stoned them. They said 18 of the injured were under the age of 15 and one of the youngsters was in critical condition.

In a separate incident, soldiers burst into a girls elementary school at the camp, apparently after coming under a hail of stones outside, and shot tear-gas inside the school.

Employees at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency clinic said several girls were overcome by tear gas.

The army said it was checking the reports.

In the business district of Arab East Jerusalem, Israeli police fired live rounds into the air and shot tear-gas and rubber bullets at demonstrators who threw stones and burned tyres, police said.

Four cars were damaged but no one was wounded in the East Jerusalem clash, which began when police arrested two youths after an Israeli bus was stoned. A third Palestinian was arrested during the unrest.

Israelis have killed 1,015 Palestinians in the last five years of uprising in the occupied territories, according to a Reuters count.

Soldiers also searched Wednesday for the assailants of an Israeli vegetable merchant killed in Gaza Tuesday.

The dead Israeli, Yehzekiel (Continued on page 5)

## American stand in expellee crisis threatens peace talks — Arafat

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Wednesday that U.S. support for Israel on the issue of Palestinian expellees threatens Middle East peace talks.

"It is regrettable that the hard-line American position enthusiastic to implement Security Council resolutions in many parts of the world comes to the support of Israel to circumvent these resolutions," Mr. Arafat said in a statement marking the 63rd month of the uprising in the occupied territories.

He warned that the collapse of the peace talks "can only mean the plunge of the area onto the abyss of severe tension and an unpredictable instability."

Israel expelled more than 400

Palestinians from the occupied territories to Lebanon on Dec. 17, claiming they were Islamic fundamentalist activists responsible for violence.

The U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 799 the next day to demand the immediate return of all the expellees. Other than a few who have been hospitalised or returned because they were expelled by "mistake," the Palestinians remain lodged in a tent camp near Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Israel offered to return 101 of the men under threat of sanctions. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is scheduled to come to the region later this month to get the peace talks back on track, termed the offer

"consistent" with Resolution 799. "The Israeli-American deal and the continuation of the U.S. support for Israel is a serious blow to the peace process," Mr. Arafat said in an statement carried by Wafa, the Palestinian news agency.

He said support for the offer by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was "a cover for more expulsions."

He urged Washington to implement U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including 242 and 338, which call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories in exchange for peace. "We are looking forward to the American administration to move in line with its slogans of commitment to human rights to force the

(Continued on page 5)

## Russia dampens Iraqi hope

BAGHDAD (AP) — Russia has moderately softened its policy towards Iraq, but not at the cost of compromising on sanctions or implementation of U.N. Gulf war resolutions, officials and diplomats said Wednesday.

The Russian policy was conveyed to Iraqi officials by Igor Melekhov, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East Desk, now on a visit to Baghdad. "Russia's position is firm vis-à-vis Iraq's," Mr. Melekhov told a group of reporters Wednesday. "Russia believes that the situation requires that Iraq comply with all Security Council resolutions."

Moscow's policy has dampened Iraqi hopes of seeking Russia's support to lift U.N. sanctions that are crippling the economy, making the Iraqi currency weaker day by day and producing considerable hardship for the country's 10 million people.

Russia recently softened its line towards Iraq when it asked for more control over U.S. led attacks. But some officials have said the shift was mainly superficial and intended to appease hard liners who want President Boris Yeltsin to drop his support for the coalition.

Mr. Yeltsin has backed the sanctions against Iraq. The Soviet Union also supported the U.N.-backed Gulf war to oust Baghdad from Kuwait two years ago.

Iraq had apparently sensed Mr. Melekhov's specific stand as there was neither a red carpet welcome nor a publicity blitz in the government-controlled media, one of the accessible signals to judge official positions.

(Continued on page 5)

## Aziz rejects appeal for release of jailed Britons

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq rejected pleas to release two jailed Britons Wednesday, saying that Britain would first have to unfreeze Iraqi assets seized during the Gulf crisis.

Michael Whitlam, head of the British Red Cross, said after a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz that Baghdad had spurned requests by the jailed Britons' relatives to free them.

Mr. Whitlam said he offered Mr. Aziz further humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people if Michael Wainwright and Paul Ride were set free.

"He was in no way prepared even to talk about a deal over the two men," Mr. Whitlam told reporters following an 80-minute meeting with Mr. Aziz.

Mr. Aziz apparently reiterated

his demand, made last week on British television, that the men could be freed if London releases millions of dollars of Iraqi assets.

The British Foreign Office has reiterated its refusal to turn over the assets until Iraq fully complies with United Nations resolutions stemming from the Gulf war.

Mr. Whitlam accompanied four relatives of the two prisoners on a trip to Baghdad to visit the pair and try to win their release.

The relatives, making their second visit to Baghdad's Abu Garab prison in two days, were not present at Mr. Whitlam's meeting with Mr. Aziz, President Saddam Hussein's main foreign policy adviser.

There was no immediate comment from the families. (Continued on page 5)



Israeli soldiers Wednesday grab a mentally-handicapped Palestinian boy after a stone-throwing protest in Arab East Jerusalem (AFP photo)

## Majority of Jordan determined to end Arab-Israeli status quo

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A majority of Jordanians are willing to switch their support of the Arab-Israeli peace talks to a military solution of the conflict if the talks fail to produce results, a recent academic study indicates.

The study, conducted by Professor Mohammad Jihad Shreideh of Yarmouk University, also showed that Palestinians and Jordanians are worried over the "concept of duality of leadership and identity" which may result from a union between Jordan and a future Palestinian entity.

In a questionnaire distributed among 1,140 people aged between 20 and above, an impressive 74 per cent said they supported the peace talks (21 per

cent did not); 95.3 per cent expressed their belief that a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict would have a positive impact on the region while 1.8 per cent said they did not. Sixty eight per cent said they believed that a peaceful settlement is forthcoming.

Questioned whether they believe in resorting to a military solution if the peace talks failed 72.5 per cent said they did not, 23.2 per cent said they did not. "I think that Jordanians are saying that they do not want the continuation of a stalemate in the Arab-Israeli conflict," Dr. Shreideh told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

Although sceptical of giving his analysis of the results maintaining that the study was a purely academic effort, he agreed that

there was a message in the almost equal percentages between supporting the current peace talks and unhesitatingly shifting to the military option if the negotiations fail.

"People look at the conflict from more angles than the political one," Prof. Shreideh explained, adding that "economic and social factors, among others, obviously influenced people into supporting the peace talks and believing that its fruits would be beneficial to the region."

It is perhaps this expectation which contributed to a 72 per cent showing in support of the Jordanian delegation continuing negotiations even if there was no progress on the other tracks.

Twenty-three per cent thought (Continued on page 5)

## PLO reportedly mediating between Iraq and Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is trying to reconcile relations between Iraq and Egypt, strained in the Gulf war, officials said Wednesday.

Mr. Arafat, who was in Iraq last week, brought an oral message from President Saddam Hussein to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Palestinian officials said.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official told Reuters that President Saddam had made an offer to Mr. Mubarak "for reconciliation... and for closing the Kuwait file."

Mr. Arafat said last week that President Saddam had made a dramatic aboutface and now supported the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks, apparently reversing his long-standing opposition to dealing with Israel.

Diplomats said President Saddam might offer to release Kuwaitis detained in Iraq as a goodwill gesture. Kuwait says some 620 Kuwaitis are still held by Iraq.

Arab diplomats said Iraq was looking for a breakthrough to end

its isolation after the 1991 Gulf war which destroyed much of its military might. Two years of U.N. sanctions have crippled its economy.

Egypt's response to the Iraqi offer has been cautious so far, the sources said.

Mr. Mubarak told Egyptian journalists after talks with President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Tuesday that Mr. Arafat had conveyed a message from President Saddam asking for dialogue.

"Arafat is trying to open the doors between Cairo and Baghdad... he is trying to play a role in restoring relations between states whose relations were damaged with Baghdad during the Gulf war," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying in Al Gomhuria newspaper.

"The experiences of the near past taught us not to take such matters lightly... we should have a deep and sound evaluation... such a thoughtful thinking will spare Egypt from taking any hasty act that could harm its interests," he was quoted as saying.

(Continued on page 5)

## Ball in London Club court

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Differences among members of the London Club of creditor banks have postponed the submission of a proposal on settling rescheduling Jordan's commercial debts, thus relieving pressure on the Kingdom in the short term, official sources and economists said Wednesday.

A steering committee of the London Club failed to table any proposals during a meeting with a Jordanian delegation in London last week and sought more time for consultations among the concerned banks, they said.

A minority in the group apparently resisted certain concessions given to Jordan in a draft proposal and this led to disagreement in the steering committee and hence the postponement," said one official source.

According to another source close to the talks, "the chair (of the steering committee) took note that the arguments (within the panel) touched on some of the basic policies of commercial banks holding Third World debts and therefore ruled that the final decision should be made at the management level of the concerned banks rather than within the committee."

The source said French banks, which carry about \$200 million of the nearly \$1 billion of Jordan's commercial debts, remained opposed to giving Jordan the benefit of the lower interest rates in the market and (Continued on page 5)

## 14th political party gets official approval

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The left-wing Freedom Party brought to 14 the number of political parties now legal in the Kingdom Wednesday when party chairman Fawaz Zoubi was informed of the legal acceptance of the group by Ministry of Interior officials.

The licensing of the Freedom Party gives left-wing parties an edge in the overall count of parties now operating legally in Jordan.

Political observers said that while the licensing of left-wing parties — which was initially questioned by the government — was also a sign of the fragmentation of the left and not necessarily a reflection of the popularity of socialist or left-wing political thought in the Kingdom.

"The left is too split, too fragmented," said political activist Yousef Hourani.

"There is no need for seven left-wing parties. If they joined hands it would be a lot wiser. They should learn from the Islamists," added Mr. Hourani, a

former activist of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The Freedom Party is led by former communist Fawaz Zoubi, a veteran political activist who split twice with other leftist groups in the country before founding the new group in the fall of 1992.

After splitting with the Jordanian Communist Party, in which he had held an executive position for several years, Mr. Zoubi joined another veteran, Ali Amer. The two politicians formed the Jordanian Party for Progress last summer. Mr. Amer had split from the DFLP after Jordan severed administrative and legal ties with the occupied territories in 1988.

After a three-month merger, the two political activists decided to go their separate ways. Mr. Amer formed the Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ), about six months ago. Shortly afterwards Mr. Zoubi founded the Freedom Party. The DPPJ became the first left-wing (Continued on page 5)

## Politics, religion and sex — the three do's for JTV censorship

By Stephanie Genkin  
Special to the Jordan Times

This is the first in a series of articles on censorship in Jordan

AMMAN — Despite the absence of hardcore guidelines determining censorship practices in Jordan, three taboos remain outstanding: religion, politics and sex. While the government continues to set the standard of what is acceptable for television, media directors, personnel and "experts" have some measure of autonomy in interpreting what is suitable for public consumption.

All forms of official media in the Kingdom are subject to the same censorship regulations. The finished product of any censored piece, however, depends largely on the judgement of the committee screening the material.

The "code" designed to safeguard the religious, moral and political values of the nation is broad, and therefore the final decision is left to the discretion of the censor.

In the case of television, censorship practices remain vague and censors receive no formal training. Instead, they are chosen on the basis of experience, educational and

intellectual levels, according to the censorship department at Jordan Television.

"All censors at the station are hired from the inside and work on a freelance basis, holding another job in the media industry," explained Mohammad Nawayseh, assistant director at JTV's Channel 2.

Advocates of freedom of expression, however, are critical of the right of any single individual to decide for them what is suitable for viewing, raising concerns as to the validity of censorship.

Those directly involved with censoring foreign films and programmes at JTV see things differently.

"We have certain responsibilities to our generation and our people. After all, we are a government-owned TV station," explained Mr. Nawayseh.

"We think of our brothers and sisters watching television take into consideration what we want them to see," he added.

Defending the practice and process of censorship, Mr. Nawayseh contends that the current procedure is satisfactory and legitimate.

"One does not need special training to be a censor," he said. "The taboos are clear to everyone. It's not very complicated. We know by instinct," he added.

According to Waleed Mohammad, JTV's English-language news editor, censorship guidelines are not essential to his work.

"This is a government television station, and we believe that the news should be consistent with the government's point of view and its national policy," said Mr. Mohammad.

Mr. Mohammad explained that the station does not practise censorship in the old-fashioned sense of the term, in which material considered unsuitable is deleted.

He said that his job requires evaluating the correctness of news segments received by news agencies on a daily basis. "I look to see if a story is

credible," said Mr. Mohammad. "Not everything that comes through the wires is credible. Reporters are often oriented towards one side or another and write the story from their own perspective," he added.

News items on the Middle East conflict often fall into the problematic category, according to Mr. Mohammad.

For instance, when a news segment mentions "Nablis as a part of Israel," he explained, it is not used, since it is recognised as occupied Arab territory.

Other problems with material obtained from news agencies arise, which may also be (Continued on page 5)



## Victims of post-war Kuwaiti violence still await justice

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hundreds of people of all nationalities were brutalised and murdered by Kuwaitis who went on a frenzied rampage through the emirate in the days after it was liberated from Iraqi occupation forces in late February/early March two years ago, many of the victims who survived the traumatic ordeal opted not to talk about it, hoping to put the episodes behind them and start a new life. But a few others could not live with themselves doing nothing about the inhuman treatment they suffered in the hands of the vengeful Kuwaitis.

Naimat Farhat, a 33-year-old Lebanese woman, whose father and brother were murdered after she herself was raped and shot in the head by a senior Kuwaiti intelligence officer, is one of the few who refused to give up efforts to bring the culprits to book. She is not seeking vengeance but wants justice since she believes the killings of her father and brother were ordered by the Kuwaiti regime.

Despite all indications that the Kuwaiti authorities have no intention of pursuing their complaint, Miss Farhat and her brother Naim Farhat are pressing their case at all levels; their latest move was an open letter to the members of the recently elected Kuwaiti parliament.

According to the letter signed by Naim Farhat, a naturalised American citizen who lives in Santa Cruz, California, his father Ismail Farhat lived in Kuwait for over 30 years with his family and refused to leave even after the Iraqi army took over the emirate in August 1990.

"My father... who served the Kuwaiti government for over 30 years, resisted the Iraqis, suffering torture for his loyalty to Kuwait," says the letter. "He was tied up and assassinated in his own home. My brother Osama, who actively worked to resist the Iraqis, sat tied next to my father as the Kuwaiti assassin who killed him. My sister Naimat, who also resisted the Iraqis, was brutally raped and shot in the head and left to die."

The episode, as retold by Naimat Farhat, unfolds like this: On March 2, 1991, a few days after Iraqi forces were forced to withdraw from Kuwait, her brother Osama and a friend were picked up by Kuwaiti police but were released after four hours of interrogation.

But a Kuwaiti, identified by Naimat as a senior intelligence officer, came to the Farhat house the same evening armed with an official paper, which he said were orders that the family members be killed for "collaborating" with the Iraqi forces.

The officer brushed aside the family's arguments that they were in fact part of the Kuwaiti resistance and were persecuted by the Iraqi occupation forces. He made Osama to tie up his father and Naimat to tie up her brother, before asking the woman to serve him tea.

## Hogg describes Israeli expulsions as 'inhumane'

ISRAEL'S decision to deport 400 Palestinians was symptomatic of its "more general failure" to respect human rights in the occupied territories, a British minister told the United Nations commission on human rights yesterday.

At their meeting in Geneva, Douglas Hogg, Foreign Office minister responsible for the Middle East, said the deportations were "illegal and inhumane."

Mr. Hogg, speaking on behalf of the British government, said everyone was concerned by the increasing bloodshed in the occupied territories, especially by reports that 216 children had been injured since the beginning of December and 13 shot dead by the Israeli army.

"The Israeli authorities have had five years to learn to cope with the provocations of the intifada, yet the defence forces record remains every bit as bad, if not worse than before," he added.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### ICJ calls for rapporteur for occupied lands

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) intervened at the 49th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights stressing the need for a special rapporteur to investigate the human rights situation in the occupied territories. Commenting on the compromise to the expulsion crisis proposed by the governments of Israel and the United States to allow the return of 101 of the over 400 Palestinian expellees, ICJ Secretary-General Adams Dieng stated that this apparent case of tensions constitutes, even in the short-term, a defeat of the principles of international law.

## U.S. dilemma in Somalia: Who's an honest gunman?

MOGADISHU (R) — Jama Abdi Farrah survived the night but he is getting ready to move in a hurry.

U.S. Marines, rounding up arms to make Mogadishu a safer place for most of its citizens, have also made it a dangerous one for a man with a garage full of construction equipment and some hefty firepower to protect it.

## Iran's friction with Gulf Arabs eases

By Yousef Azmei Reuter

DUBAI — Iran's relations with its Gulf Arab neighbours appear to be improving after months of tension sparked by a row over three Gulf islands that straddle one of the world's main oil routes, Gulf diplomats say.

"There is an opening," one senior Gulf diplomat said, "we hope it will succeed."

He was commenting on reports that mediation, principally by Syria, was making headway despite recent statements from Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) both reasserting their claims to sovereignty over the three islands.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday he was encouraged by recent friendly messages from Gulf Arab neighbours. "We warmly shake their hands hoping this trend will continue," he added.

### Algerian minister gives up speakership

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's new foreign minister, Redha Malek, has given up his post as speaker of the unelected national consultative council, the official news agency APS said Tuesday.

### Turk plans to publish The Satanic Verses

CATALCA, Turkey (R) — A prominent Turkish author said Tuesday he plans to try to overcome obstacles to publish an edition of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" in Turkey. "I want to publish a translation of Rushdie's book on my own or with a group of my readers and associates," Aziz Nesin, 78, told Reuters at his farm in Catalca, 50 kilometres west of Istanbul. His plan to bring out the book is likely to further damage relations between Tehran and Ankara, already strained by the murders of two secular journalists and an Iranian dissident by Muslim fundamentalists allegedly trained in Iran.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7311-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:30 ..... Pi et Hercule  
17:45 ..... Le Magazine  
18:15 ..... L'opinion des fans  
19:00 ..... News in Arabic  
19:15 ..... Azmei  
19:30 ..... Hebdo  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Uncle Buck  
21:10 ..... The Human Factor  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:29 ..... Feature Film: "Vegetarian"

**PRAYER TIMES**

05:00 ..... Fajr  
10:18 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
14:54 ..... Asr  
17:21 ..... Maghreb  
18:40 ..... Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 625765  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 641757  
Terzianita Church Tel. 622266

Church of the Association Tel. 62541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625303, Tel. 62543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71131  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 827801, 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623024 and 654932  
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The effect of the cold front which affected Jordan in the past few days will start to decrease gradually Thursday. Winds will be westerly moderate, freshening at time. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with scattered showers expected, while winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

Amman ..... Min/Max temp. 11/6  
Aqaba ..... 6/15  
Deserts ..... 0/9  
Jordan Valley ..... 5/15

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 2, Aqaba 13. Humidity readings: Amman 99 per cent, Aqaba 62 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:

Dr. Yahya Abdel Raheem ..... 730172  
Dr. Mahmoud Al Hindi ..... 898787  
Dr. Rafea Zeinoun ..... 889685  
Dr. Nidal Al Dahieh ..... 827195  
Firdous pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 776356  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637035  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shneissat pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 647632

DEBES:

Dr. Mahmoud Khalil ..... 276897  
Al Ouda pharmacy (—)

**EMERGENCIES**

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 846390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 638900  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Amman Municipality ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN:

Hussien Medical Centre ..... 81381/332  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642381/6  
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palatine, Shmouk ..... 6611714  
Shmeissat Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Musharraf Hospital ..... 6672279  
Al-Ahli, Abadi ..... 6611646  
Italian, Al-Mutajir ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77511/26  
Army, Marka ..... 89161/115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 6624030  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Hamdan ..... 987725  
Khalil pharmacy ..... 985417

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3320-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:05 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Larnaca, Athens (RJ)  
12:10 ..... London (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Paris (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Bahrain Doha (RJ)  
16:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
16:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:40 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

06:00 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Cairo, Amman (RJ)  
09:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
18:20 ..... Colombo (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:05 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Larnaca, Athens (RJ)  
12:10 ..... London (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Paris (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Bahrain Doha (RJ)  
16:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
16:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:40 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

06:00 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Cairo, Amman (RJ)  
09:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
18:20 ..... Colombo (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

12:40 ..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
13:40 ..... Riyadh (SU)  
16:35 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
17:00 ..... Dubai (EA)  
20:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
21:45 ..... Larnaca (CY)

**MARKET PRICES**

Upper/lower price in \$/kg per kg

Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 700/700  
Banana (Mukama) ..... 640/640  
Beans ..... 650/450  
Cabbage ..... 160/100  
Carrot ..... 250/180  
Cauliflower ..... 210/120  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 300/250  
Eggplant ..... 320/220  
Garlic ..... 650/550  
Grapfruit ..... 270/220  
Lemon ..... 200/100  
Marrow (large) ..... 400/160  
Marrow (small) ..... 440/330  
Mint ..... 80  
Onion (dry) ..... 210/180  
Onion (green) ..... 240/180  
Orange ..... 400/160  
Pepper (hot) ..... 380/280  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 180/120  
Potato ..... 230/200  
Spinach ..... 240/180



## Majority determined to end status quo

(Continued from page 1)

the Jordanians should withdraw. On another set of questions which tried to show how many citizens of Jordan were in support of a union between Jordan and a future Palestinian entity, 54 per cent said they were against any such union while 44.5 said they supported it.

Although a columnist at Al Dustour daily newspaper interpreted this finding as an indication of Jordanian and Palestinian "Likud-like" tendencies, Dr. Shreideh described this analysis as the point of view of the writer himself.

Nothing that the study was conducted in Jordanian cities as well as Palestinian refugee camps, Dr. Shreideh said he believed it was an indication of "both sides' fear of duality of identity and leadership."

"I purposely do not want to come out and give an analysis on this so that it would not be understood that I was looking for particular results," Dr. Shreideh said. But he said that this result combined with his assessment of the people questioned would weigh in favour of concluding that it was fear of one identity overwhelming another or one leadership overshadowing the other.

He added that since the study was not conducted on East Bank Jordanians alone, it is difficult to conclude that Jordanians "do not want the Palestinians" which was the conclusion reached by Dr. Musa Kellani, the author of Al Dustour's column.

Dr. Kellani, whose column was

published Wednesday, said that the rejection of any form of unity between Jordan and Palestine by over half of those surveyed was an indication of "the failure of the media institutions ... to form a move towards creating the roots for unity expected of future generations." He also blamed the Ministry of Education for being unable to create an "awareness" of the benefits of unity in the Arab World.

The perception of Jordanians of the effectiveness of the United States in the Arab-Israeli negotiations also held a few surprises. According to the study, 88.5 per cent of those surveyed believed that American diplomacy was the force behind the initiation of the peace talks while 10.35 per cent did not; 89.12 per cent believed that the United States could pressure Israel into accepting peace while 96.4 per cent believed that Washington would not use that clout if the talks were facing difficulties because of the Jewish state's position.

The result of the latest American elections, according to 91.4 per cent, is not expected to affect the chances of achieving peace in the Middle East region. Western countries were believed (90.78 per cent) to be in support of U.S. policies towards the peace talks. Predictably, 89.12 per cent believed that the Arab World can influence international events; 67.81 thought that it would be a "moderate" influence while 8.07 thought it would be "a little bit effective" and 24.11 per cent believed that the Arab World would be "highly effective."

## Jordanian ball in London Club's court

(Continued from page 1)

insisted on a higher rate. "The French banks argue that a concession given to Jordan would set a precedent which could be cited by their other Third World debtors who owe them tens of billions of dollars," said the source.

In Jordan's case, most of the rest of the banks were willing to accept the market rates as the applicable interest," the source said, adding that he expected the majority to prevail in the final proposal as and when it is submitted to the Kingdom.

No definite official figures have been released on Jordan's commercial foreign debt after the Kingdom bought back some of it at discounted rates late last year.

Some sources said the figure was about \$1 billion while others said it was closer to \$800 million.

Standard Chartered Bank of Britain and the Chemical Bank of the U.S. co-chair the London Club steering committee. The American component in the total amount involved was described as insignificant by the source.

"Now the ball is in the court of the London Club since the postponement came upon its request," said Fahed Fanek, a well informed economist. "It also means that Jordan is no longer under pressure from any source to conclude an agreement with the London Club within a defined timeframe," he added. The Kingdom was supposed

to have reached accord with the commercial creditors before Dec. 31 but the deadline was extended to June 30 with the tacit approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

According to an official source, Jordan and the London Club "are in agreement over most of the key elements in addressing the Kingdom's debts."

"The tussle over interest rates is the only major snag," the source added.

"Jordan has been let off the hook in the short term," a Western observer agreed. "It would be some time before the concerned creditors get together and come up with a compromise proposal, which may or may not be agreeable to Jordan."

Last week's meeting with the London Club took place a few days after the Kingdom scored success in securing \$380 million in pledges from donor countries to help its balance of payments for 1992. The pledges were made at a Paris meeting of a consultative group of donors arranged by the World Bank.

Planning Minister Ziad Fariz led the Jordanian delegation which attended the Paris meeting. The team included Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michel Marou.

Mr. Jaraneh and Dr. Marou attended the meeting in London with the steering committee of the commercial creditors.

## Israelis kill two boys in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

Avraham, 50, from Holon in the Tel Aviv area, was shot at close range with three bullets in the chest and abdomen near Khan Yunis at about 7:30 p.m. (1730 GMT), the army and news reports said.

An Israeli Arab man from Jaffa who was with Avraham also was lightly wounded in the attack, they said.

Newspapers said the Israelis were attacked by four men as they bargained with a Gaza wholesaler at a market near the beach.

The assailants took the unusual step of speaking to the victim and threatening him before shooting.

Waving his pistol in the air, one man asked, "Who here is Jewish?" the Maariv and Hadasot dailies said.

"Both of them are Arabs, both are our kind," the Gaza wholesaler was quoted as replying.



Palestinians carry a boy wounded by Israeli gunfire Wednesday in Jabalya camp in the Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Avraham also said "I'm an Arab" and pleaded for his life. But apparently the men realized he was Jewish and shot him at close range. After the men fled, the Israeli Arab and the Gaza merchant ran to get help.

## Russian envoy dampens Iraqi hopes

(Continued from page 1)

The Baghdad Observer newspaper carried a brief Iraqi News Agency report on Mr. Melekhov's visit Wednesday without any comment.

That was in contrast to the publicity that 10 parliament members from the small Nationalist Liberation Democratic Party of Russia got when they visited Baghdad last month.

Mr. Melekhov's visit is the first by a senior official of Iraq's former superpower ally since the 1991 Gulf war.

In Moscow, officials had said Russia was fully behind the United Nations sanctions against Iraq and that Mr. Melekhov's visit was to make its policy clear to Baghdad.

Mr. Melekhov is seeking elucidation on Iraq's stand on sanctions and its opinion of the new U.S. administration, diplomatic sources in Baghdad said.

He is telling the Iraqis that Baghdad should fully implement all the Security Council resolutions, said the diplomats. "Only then Russia may be of some help to see that the sanctions are lifted," said one diplomat.

Mr. Melekhov echoed the diplomat's views. "Of course, implementation of all resolutions," he told reporters when asked how many concessions Moscow was willing to offer to Baghdad on the implementation of the resolution, a key factor in deciding if and when the sanctions are to be lifted.

"The main purpose of this mission is to learn the position of Iraq's leaders regarding their readiness to fulfill the resolutions of the United Nations," Mideast Desk chief Vladimir Nosenko in Moscow was quoted as saying. "Russia thinks that Iraq must fulfill these resolutions," he said. "Russia's position in this matter has not changed."

The United Nations has demanded a halt to all trade with Iraq, excluding food and humanitarian aid. The United States, Russia, France and Britain also have banned Iraqi military flights in southern and northern areas.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev reiterated Moscow's backing for the sanctions in an interview aired Sunday. But he also warned the United States not to take Russia's diplomatic support for granted.

Russia called last month for a U.N. review of the air strikes on Baghdad after U.S. cruise missiles destroyed a factory near the capital and hit a downtown hotel.

Russia could exercise a veto over military actions against Iraq only if another Security Council member, presumably, the United States, sought approval for such a mission. Washington has not sought such an endorsement.

The attacks in January, aimed mostly at enforcing the southern and northern "no-fly" zones, targeted radars and missiles that the allies said threatened patrol jets.

**Jordan Times Tel: 667171**

## 14th political party gets licence

(Continued from page 1)

party to be legalised when it was licensed on Jan. 16 of this year. But the Zoubi-Amer split was only one of several which make up an intricate web of inter-faction splits and squabbles which have marked leftist Jordanian politics through much of the eighties and nineties. The Amer group originally broke away from the DFLP in 1988 only to split again from the Jordan Peoples Democratic Party (JPDP), which is led by Mr. Amer's former DFLP colleague Tayseer Zibri.

The JPDP backs the on-going peace talks with Israel; the JPDP does not. Another notable split in the left was between Jordanian Communist Party leader Yacoub Zayyadin and Issa Madanat, leader of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party.

Both Mr. Zayyadin and Mr. Madanat are veteran political activists who spent time in prison for their illegal membership in the then banned communist party.

The support for the left was never more than five to seven per cent in this country; now we have to split that into seven parties," Mr. Hourani said.

The number of political parties licensed to date (in chronological order) is: 1) The Jordan National Alliance (centrist traditional); 2) The Popular Unity Party (pan-Arab/centrist); 3) The Pledge Party (right of centre); 4) The Islamic Action Front (Islamist); 5) The Future Front; 6) The Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (leftist); 7) The Jordan Baath Arab Socialist Party (pan-Arab leftist); 8) The Jordanian Communist Party (communist); 9) The Jordan People's Democratic Party (leftist); 10) The Progress and Justice Party (centrist); 11) The Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party (leftist); 12) The Jordanian Democratic Popular Party (leftist); 13) The Resawakening (centrist); and 14) The Freedom Party (leftist).

## Jordan Television

(Continued from page 1)

confused with censorship, Mr. Mohammad explained. In a recent speech, Lawrence Eagleburger, the former U.S. secretary of state, denounced Israel's expulsion of over 400 Palestinians from their homes in the occupied territories and at the same time criticised the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). "News at Ten" broadcast only the first part of the statements.

Israeli Television's English language news, also received in Jordan, included both statements. The difference between the two broadcasts, Mr. Mohammad maintained, is not a factor of censorship, as some people have charged.

"The editing from the source differs," he explained. Not all stations subscribe to the same news agencies, and therefore reporting on a given topic might vary, he said.

"Consider a 20-second bite on a speech that bite isn't necessarily identical in both companies," he added.

In determining moral and religious standards for television audiences, censors are regularly required to draw on their instincts, and most often in deciding the appropriateness of "love scenes."

"While some kisses are okay, others are not," said Rama Nasser, an announcer at JTV's Channel 2 and a part-time employee at the station's editing department.

According to JTV sources, most bedroom scenes are edited out.

Where kisses are concerned, the most pressing question is who is doing the kissing and how. A married couple, Miss Nasser explained, will be afforded more liberties in the "kissing department" than an unmarried couple.

Acts of violence are also left to the discretion of one of the station's three-person censorship committees.

In interviews with the Jordan Times, JTV officials explained that although shooting is tolerated, blood and guts are subject to editing. What this boils down to is that some methods of killing are "accept-

able" for viewing, while others are not.

Despite complaints from individuals that the "weeding out" process is choppy and draws attention to the film's censored segments, the station's editing team argues otherwise.

There are many tricks of the trade, and a variety of techniques are used to edit "unacceptable" material without losing minutes from the film or programme, said the station's team.

In the case of an unacceptable word, "not everything is translated," explained Miss Nasser. "Sometimes with the dialogue continues with the picture."

Of course some people will understand English," she said. Other times, however, words deemed inappropriate for the public are omitted through the use of a muting device, she added.

At times, more than words are considered necessary to delete from the programme or movie because the scene in general is deemed unsuitable for Jordanian audiences. Yet editors at JTV claim that very seldom are minutes of footage cut from the material.

"The maximum cut we make is 10 minutes. Even this is rare," said Miss Nasser.

In cases when the visual aspect of the scene is considered inappropriate, the picture is changed and the dialogue continues to run.

Critics of censorship assert that despite efforts to extract "forbidden" material from television screens, any individual who chooses to view uncensored versions of foreign movies can do so without leaving Amman.

With the ban lifted on satellite dishes and their decreasing prices, plugging into foreign television is becoming a feasible option.

Movie enthusiasts seeking unedited versions have several additional options. Israeli, Syrian and some cases Lebanese broadcasts are readily available for viewing, offering a wider range of cut and uncensored programming.

And for those determined to watch the "real thing," various embassies around Amman offer free movies.

## U.S. stand threatens talks — Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

respect and implementation of international legality," he said. He also said the United States and Russia, as co-sponsors of the peace talks, are "responsible to sanction Israel if it refuses to implement U.N. resolutions."

In Marj-Al Zohour, Lebanon, the Palestinian evictees Wednesday urged Arab states to stand firm against Israel ahead of the Mr. Christopher's visit.

The 396 men said they rejected any phased return home unless Israel first admitted that their expulsion was unjust.

Winds and driving rain soaked their muddy tent camp on Wednesday, a day after the worst snowstorms since they were expelled. Camp doctors said eight more fell ill because of the harsh weather.

"We demand Arab states stand beside our just causes — the expellee issue and the situation inside the (Israeli-occupied) territories," said their leader, Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi.

Arab leaders are holding a series of meetings to coordinate stand on the problem and the stalled peace talks before Mr. Christopher arrives next week.

Mr. Christopher will try to get the talks back on track.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, whose government refuses to accept the evictees, left Beirut Wednesday for talks in Damascus on the expulsions and the Arab-Israeli negotiations. He moves on to Cairo Thursday.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad discussed the evictees in Damascus Tuesday.

Afterwards Mr. Mubarak appealed to Israel to solve the crisis caused by the expulsions and thus pave the way for the peace talks to start again.

"Arab stands are firm and clear," said Dr. Rantisi. "We will not change our stand even if they (Arabs) go to the negotiations."

Dr. Rantisi said the Palestinians would consider returning in phases only if Israel was forced to denounce expulsions and there were international guarantees it would never expel anyone again.

Dr. Rantisi said the U.N. Security Council should meet soon to force Israel to implement Resolution 799.

He was optimistic a solution was not far away.

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## Olympic champions Cacho, Devers win

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Olympic champions Fermin Cacho and Gail Devers posted early wins in the BN Games indoor track and field meet Tuesday.

Cacho, who arrived from Spain only five hours before the meet, held off Michael Busch of Germany and Mike Michno of the U.S. to win the 1,500 meters. "It was pretty tough," Cacho said. "My preparations were not the best."

Devers, competing for the first time indoors in Europe this season, edged fellow American Carlette Guidry by one hundredth of a second in the women's 60 meters.

"Instead of sprinting the whole way through I kind of went along and relaxed. I should not have done that," said Devers, winner of the 100 in the Summer Olympics in Barcelona last year. "Hopefully my next race will be better."

Devers' winning time was 7.14, just .2 off her personal best. Third went to Marina Trandenkova of Russia in 7.42.

Ben Johnson says he is the best

More than four years after his spectacular fall from grace, a confident Ben Johnson said he was once more the best in an interview published Tuesday.

The Canadian sprinter, who set a world best for the year over 50 metres at an indoor in Grenoble told the sports daily L'Equipe: "People know that I'm still the best."

"They love me and they tell me. In Toronto, they stop me in the street and say: 'Be confident, be brave. We're behind you.' They still believe in me."

Asked if he felt he was the best, he replied: "Yes, because they tell me."

The Canadian, disgraced after a positive dope test at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 when he was suspended for two years, said: "I've always been behind since I came back in the winter of 1991. But now I'm in front again. I dreamed of this so much."

Skah threatens to boycott championships

Olympic 10,000 metres champion Khalid Skah is threatening to boycott the World Cross Country and Indoor Athletics Championships unless the Moroccan Federation pays him a bonus for winning gold in Barcelona.

Skah, twice world cross country champion, was quoted in Belgian newspapers saying he will boycott next month's Cross Country and Indoor Championships unless he gets his promised \$15,000 bonus from the Moroccan Athletics Federation.

He said compatriot Rachid El-Basir was also threatening to boycott the two championships unless he was paid his bonus for his Olympic 1,500 metres silver medal.

Skah, who won the World Cross Country title in 1990 and 1991, was crowned Olympic 10,000 metres champion after a controversial victory over Kenyan Richard Chelimo.

## NBA All-Star squads completed

NEW YORK (R) — Three members of the Cleveland Cavaliers — Mark Price, Larry Nance and Brad Daugherty — were named Tuesday as reserves for the National Basketball Association All-Star game.

Reserves for the game Sunday, February 21 in Salt Lake City, Utah, were selected in a vote of head coaches in each conference. Joining the three Cavaliers on the Eastern Conference team will be centre Patrick Ewing of New York, guard Joe Dumars of Detroit and forwards Dominique Wilkins of Atlanta and Delfel Schrempf of Indiana.

Schrempf, a member of the 1984 West German and 1992 German Olympic teams, will be playing in his first NBA All-Star game and is the first European player ever selected.

Also making their All-Star debut among Western Conference reserves will be forwards San Elliott of Antonio, Shawn Kemp of Seattle and Danny Manning of the Los Angeles Clippers and guard Mitch Richmond of Sacramento.

Other Western Conference reserves include guards Chris Mullin and Tim Hardaway of Golden State, centre Hakeem Olajuwon of Houston and swingman Dan Majerle of Phoenix.

Eight reserves were named for the West because Mullin underwent hand surgery Monday and will not be able to play.

The starting teams were determined by fan balloting. Last week, Shaquille O'Neal of the Eastern Conference's Orlando Magic became the first rookie voted to a starting berth since

Charles Barkley of Phoenix was the leading vote-getter in the



Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls seen here bringing two opponents his way before passing the ball, got the All-Star to prove for the 7th successive year

1985 when Chicago's Michael Jordan made it.

Jordan led all vote-getters for the seventh successive year and will be joined in the Eastern Conference backcourt by Isiah Thomas of Detroit, Scottie Pippen of Chicago and Larry Johnson of Charlotte were voted the starting forwards.

Charles Barkley of Phoenix was the leading vote-getter in the

West and will start at forward with Utah's Karl Malone.

David Robinson of San Antonio will be the Western Conference starting centre for the fourth year in a row. Clyde Drexler of Portland and Utah's John Stockton were voted in at guard to give the West a starting five comprised entirely of members of the Olympic gold medal winning U.S. dream team.

## Fact-finding committee to probe JBF controversy

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A fact-finding committee who will investigate the disputed second round final match of the First Division Basketball Championship between Al Ahli and Al Orthodoni, Wednesday got an official mandate to begin its quest in a bid to resolve the latest controversy by providing an acceptable solution to all parties concerned.

The much disputed Jan. 26 match was won by Al Orthodoni. Al Ahli however have since objected to "mismanagement by the referees" who awarded two extra points to Al Orthodoni, leading to a tie at the end of the second half and warranting a five minute overtime in which Al Orthodoni managed to secure the win.

The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) rejected Al Ahli's objection, and held on to the result of the match, and since Al Ahli had won the first round match, a third deciding match was required. Al Ahli however declined to play and appealed to the Ministry of Youth.

The JBF later changed its decision and announced a best-of-3 round to be played starting Feb. 9. However, this was put off after the ministry's secretary-general, Eid Al Fayez, met the JBF board Sunday and asked for the fact-finding committee to be formed.

The five-member committee includes three former JBF presidents. They are Awad Haddad, Mudar Al Majdoub, and Dr. Moyidin Touq. The other members are Moussa Hudeib and Faisal Malhas.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Fayez reiterated that the com-



Eid Al Fayez was formed with the "intention of taking the best decision that would do justice to both teams and serve the best interests of the game."

"The ministry observed that the JBF was somewhat hasty in its decisions," noted Mr. Fayez. "As the match was an important one, any decision should have been given more consideration in order to avoid any negative or unwanted results. That is why the ministry met with the JBF board and recommended forming the investigative committee to further study the problem and hopefully solve it."

Mr. Fayez said that all parties had agreed to the forming of the committee and whatever decision is reached by it will be final and binding to all.

The committee will meet the JBF, its referees as well as the boards of both clubs.

According to Mr. Fayez the options available are: "Replaying the disputed second match; keeping the result as it stands; playing a best-of-3 round; postponing the matter until the youth's national basketball team returns from the Asian Championship in Hong Kong in April; cancelling the 1992 championship title match, or whatever is seen appropriate by the committee."

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Extended conversations with associates today or tonight, there will be some muddled thinking as to conclusions reached.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your environmental conditions have some element connected with them that does not give you full sweep to making the best of your surroundings so change them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you think you are going to have a better time than in the cards so enjoy simple pleasures and avoid companions whose tastes are expensive.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There can be a considerable ado in your home because a situation is not explained with sufficient care so be articulate or question family members.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) In any contacts or communications now before you be sure you study the fine print or be sure you get the real gist of others comments provided.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are inclined to commit yourself to some financial or property deal which is not at all to your best interests or you do not have all the facts.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can have a considerable amount of confusion today and tonight in whatever is of a personal nature in your life so be watchful on the alert.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Even though you may have

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Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠107632 ♠9854 ♠K62 ♠45  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Dbl ?

What action do you take?  
A.—Nothing in your hand, not even your spade length, suggests that you can stop the opponents from making game. Indeed, your heart length weakens your side's defensive potential. To make it as difficult for the opponents to locate their best contract, jump to three hearts. Of course, that action is premature here, and does not promise much at this vulnerability.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠10982 ♠AQ1073 ♠865 ♠46  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?  
A.—Don't rebid two hearts to show that you have a good hand. A six-bid—that action promises a six-bidder. All you should do for the moment is take a preference to partner's first bid suit. Bid two diamonds.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠K1097 ♠854 ♠J ♠Q9654  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Dbl ?

What action do you take?  
A.—Playing five-card majors, it's not even close—raise to two hearts, both as a mild preemptive action and to tell partner you have some defensive values. It is more difficult if you play four-card majors, but on balance the raise should still be right.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A106 ♠10985 ♠K8 ♠KJ109  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South East North West  
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?  
A.—In support of hearts 'your hand is surely worth a full opening bid. That makes your choice very clear—jump to four hearts. Three hearts by a passed hand would be only invitational, and you don't want to risk missing a vulnerable game.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠J9 ♠K42 ♠A98 ♠876  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South East North West  
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?  
A.—We feel you owe partner another bid and, since the auction marks North with a six-card spade suit, it's a close choice between three spades and two no trump, with our vote going to the latter because it gives partner room to make another descriptive bid.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A9 ♠Q95 ♠AJ73 ♠K95  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South East North West  
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?  
A.—Even if you play that your no-trump range is 15-17, we don't think this square hand is nearly good enough for a one-bid of four diamonds. We would simply raise to four spades.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Unaspected moon in Scorpio makes it a fine day to follow through a predetermined course. Otherwise, great for weeding or cleaning the garden, or recycling and clearing refuse, and reorganising drawer space.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Now you find it possible to have an obligation hold you up for a little while where your plan of action is concerned but you soon find a chance to gain intimate aims.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Being held back by a stubborn person early need not keep you from soon being on your path to achieve big results in the world of outside activity.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A blockage in your work can early occur but soon this is past and you are able to show your special talent where your vocation is concerned.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't allow a desire for pleasure to sidetrack you from new and interesting outlets that are awaiting your attention in growth matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't loiter about home early but get off to find the data you need for handling your practical affairs in a more operative, efficient manner.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make a point to put off a

communication while you find out in an extended huddle with a close associate just what that person expects in your association.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't take up long time obligations in the morning but find ways to have a better time at recreation with those with whom you are congenial, at peace.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put aside a personal desire that activates you and think out what you can do to have a greater amount of harmony with your attachment and make it.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Steer clear from dull tasks and put your energies on what will make your residence a happier place at which to spend your time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Avoid contact with disgruntled friend early, then you will be able to spend the day at the various correspondence and communication duties.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A worldly matter requires more study before tackling and instead put your attention on improving the business and financial aspects of your affairs.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A new idea can wisely take you away early if you allow from a plan you have devised whereby you can gain the personal things that you want.

## THE BETTER HALF

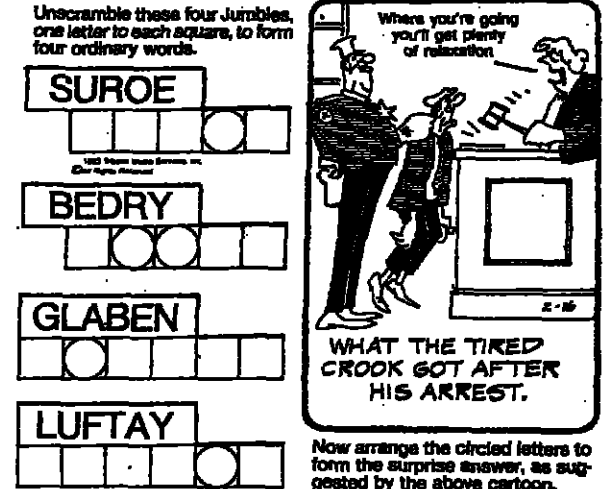
By Harris



"I'm not sure if I have the flu or if I just need some serious spoiling!"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

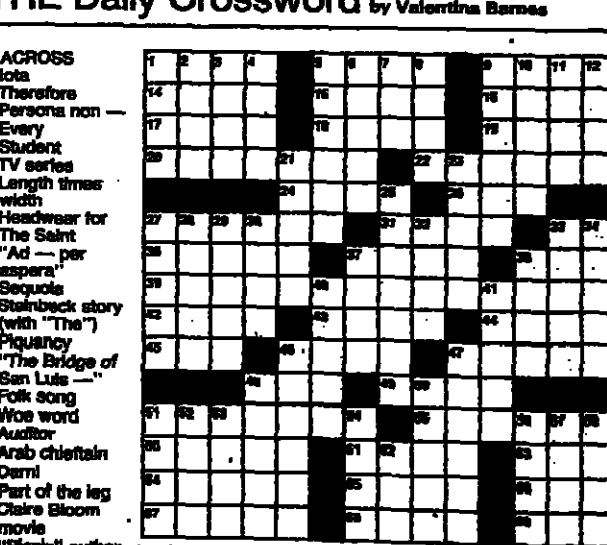


Now arrange the circled letters to form the quickest answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:  (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TYING BRASS TOFFEE PLAQUE  
Answer: This is often a good book's sequel—ITS SEQUEL

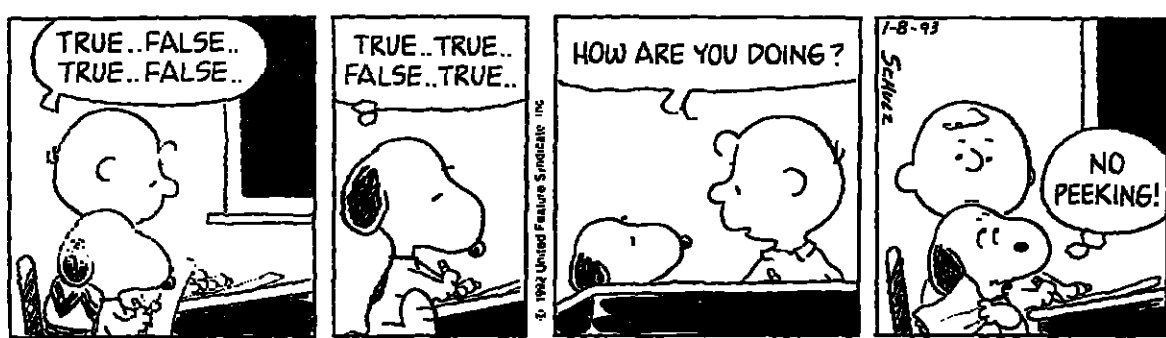
## THE Daily Crossword by Valentina Barnes



Yesterday's Puzzle Answer:

Across: 1. Streets, 7. Set, 8. Recidence, 9. Open areas in forests, 10. Harsh, 11. Choir voice, 12. Not at his lake, 13. Mountain, 21. Muse of poetry, 22. Most sour, 27. Stash's chief of security, 28. Improve, 29. Rock shell, 30. — of Capri, 32. Theater work, 33. Rebus, 34. Years, 35. Anxiety, 37. Art movement, 38. Agitation, 40. Give up, 41. Appressed, 46. Worried hard, 47. Enraged.

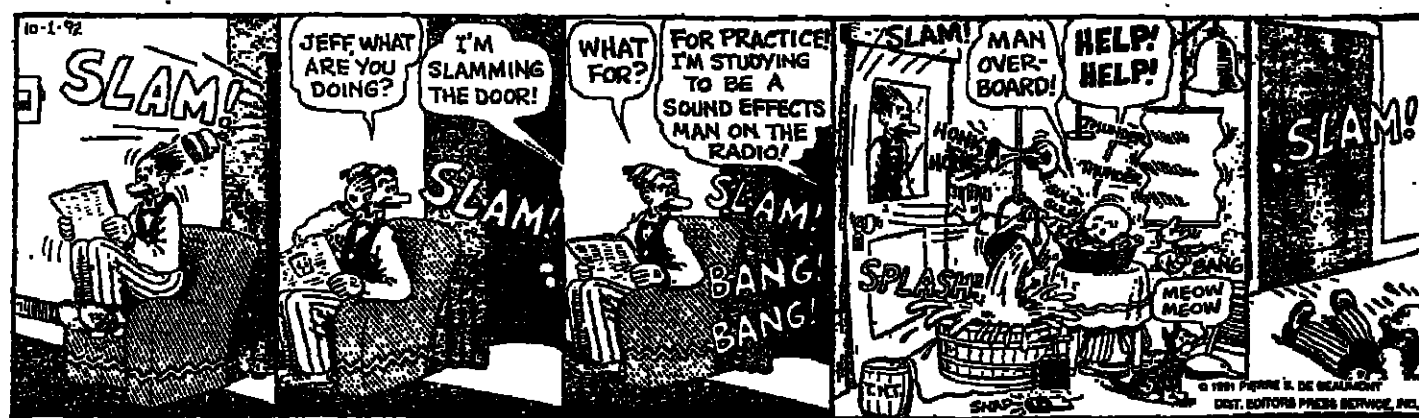
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff





## Artists trek between 2 worlds

Arab-American artists blend cultural experience with Western techniques

By Curt Ryan and Stephanie Gonkin  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Can a painter be the Arab identity and still experience through the use of Western artistic techniques? The artists in the exhibition at the Abdul Hameed Foundation Gallery, Arab-American artists, are the answer. They are a creative mind effectively blend the influences of two different worlds.

While the featured artists have this synthesis with competence and finesse, the quality of this venture did not go unnoted. Yet, as Arab-American artists, all four have benefited from an intellectual and artistic development emanating from dual sources. Drawing both Arab and Western influences, each artist presents a cultural merger in her work.

We deeply believe that should have no boundaries," explained Suba Shoukri, who brought the exhibition together. Recognising

the exhibition as an educational endeavour, Mrs. Shoukri believes that not only will it broaden the public's artistic horizons, but perhaps more importantly, the works will stimulate and inspire Jordan's growing artistic community.

Each artist brings a unique approach to the canvas, but all share an interest and commitment to abstract art.

In addition to an Arab-American identity and a firm commitment to abstract art, Suba Noursi, Afaf Zurayk, Helen Khal and Ghada Jamal also share the experience of being women painters in an art world traditionally dominated by men. Viewed together, the artists' works highlight the eclectic quality of abstract art.

Inspired by the landscapes of her native Jordan, Suba Noursi exhibits the skills of an artist strongly influenced by two easily recognisable European painting movements. At times, she brings images of French impressionism to her work, while in other instances her style is clearly influenced by German expressionism. And a few of the paintings in her collection

reveal a fusion of the two schools.

Despite the European influences imbedded in her work, largely produced in Washington, Mrs. Noursi's paintings are steeped with nostalgia for the scenery of a country never far from her thoughts. The viewer does not have to be acquainted with rural Jordan, however, to appreciate her ability to depict charming villages, open fields, and the beauty of nature.

"When I exhibit in the United States, some people ask me where the landscapes are from," said Mrs. Noursi. Some think of the American southwest, while others are reminded of distant places, the artist added.

Uninhibited in her use of colour, Mrs. Noursi's works combine vibrant tones with broad, swirling brush strokes. The effect conveys natural motion, and as a result, none of her landscapes have the static quality of a still life.

Now, after twenty years, Mrs. Noursi has returned to her roots to continue her artistic career in Jordan. However, Amman's art world today has vastly expanded since she last lived in Jordan. While some people are disappointed in the sparse number of artists based in Amman, Mrs. Noursi feels otherwise.

### ART REVIEW

"Since I left Amman, there are so many more artists," she said. "I keep meeting and seeing new people. Considering the size of the place, there are quite a lot (of artists)," she added.

While Mrs. Noursi is impressed with the significant expansion of Jordan's art scene, she said that the development of individual artists is less than even.

"There is a wide range of art here in Amman. However, some exhibitions are disappointing and some are wonderful," Mrs. Noursi said.

Approaching abstract art from a different angle, Lebanese American artist Afaf Zurayk starts with a watercolour base, which serves as the foundation of her collection.

In one series of her paintings, the watercolour wash stands on its own. In another set, Mrs. Zurayk uses the watercolour as background for ink drawings featuring fine, distinct lines.

Often sparing in her use of colours, Mrs. Zurayk tends to favour dark hues, bleeding into one another. A few of



One of the paintings on display by Arab-American artist Suba Noursi

her paintings, however, mark a dramatic departure from their more reserved counterparts. Distinguishing this set of paintings, an explosion of bright red contrasts sharply with the stayed background.

Also of Lebanese origin, Helen Khal uses an abstract art form for the study of emotions. Her experiments with colour and her attempts to get in touch with the senses often play off one another. Explaining what stimulates her artwork, Mrs. Khal states:

"To make of colour an oasis for the emotions; to create a presence that may be entered visually, and through that sense of sight find respite from the jarring realities of an everyday world, where serenity lies hidden."

Most of Mrs. Khal's canvases are dominated by only a few colours, each designed to trigger a different emotional response. For Mrs. Khal, abstract use of bold colours creates an environment in itself. In the artist's own words, "each colour has its own climate and creates its own particular world."

The fourth artist featured in the exhibition, Ghada Jamal, is also a Lebanese-American. Her collection is preoccupied with abstract images of the Gulf War. Like many Arab-Americans, Mrs. Jamal was deeply disturbed by the event. As a painter, she used the canvas to express her distress.

"Overwhelmed by the events in the Gulf arena, constantly bombarded with conflicting information and terrifying video images of destruction, it was necessary to process all this raw material and make art about the

war," she writes.

Three series of paintings marking stages of the conflict comprise a statement about war in general. Referring to the early stage of the bombings, Cloudburst Series includes abstract aerial landscapes with blue skies invaded by the modern technology of destruction. Lines and shapes float across the canvas, to depict the diagrams used for precision bombings.

In the next set, entitled In The Storm Series, Mrs. Jamal alludes to the brutality and horror of war. In the final series, After The Rain, she considers the aftermath of the Gulf War and the effects of war in general.

While also cathartic, her work is no less an invitation to her viewers to join her in contemplating the role of war and violence as a means to settle differences. For Mrs. Jamal, "there is no morally just war. All wars are bad."

While their choice of subject matter differs, the four artists featured in the exhibition prove, each in her own way, that art need not have boundaries. They also drive home the point that abstract art requires sophisticated skills and techniques. Both the public and the artistic community will benefit from a visit to the Gallery to see the current exhibition which will be on display until Feb. 28.



Watercolour painting by Afaf Zurayk

### THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

What you feel in your heart to be right — for you'll be justified anyway — Eleanor Roosevelt, U.S. statesman and lady (1884-1962).

Let us be happy and live within our means, even if we have to borrow the money to do it with — Arsenius Ward, S. revolutionary commander (1727-1800).

The cruellest lies often are told in silence — Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish writer (1850-1894).

Not life, but a good life, is to be chiefly valued — Plato, Greek philosopher (about 470 B.C.-399 B.C.).

A sound mind in a sound body is something to be prayed for — Juvenal, Roman lawyer-satirist (about 60-140 A.D.).

## Bloomers and bleepers of our Davis Cup team

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

IT was the first round of Davis Cup tennis matches held in a disappointing 5-0 loss by Jordan to Iran, an intense and serious effort is needed to prepare our team to avoid another defeat in their upcoming matches against Malaysia in April.

However, in addition to training the team properly, all concerned parties have to get their act together to have an around successful event that will avoid the shortcomings of snags one could not help but notice during the past year.

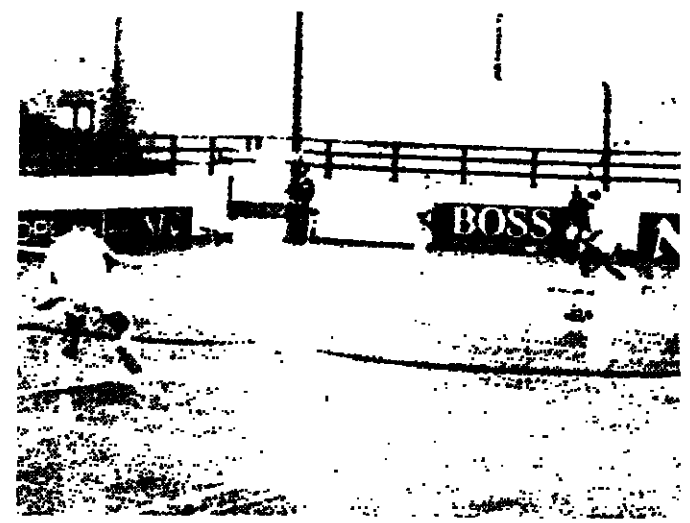
We observe the following in this regard:

★ There was no concerted effort or publicity campaign to draw people's attention to the fact that the Jordanian team would be playing against Iran — in Amman. The Davis Cup posters regarding the event were ready by the night of March 1 — one day prior to the beginning of the three-day tournament — and were only given out to the press. No posters were seen anywhere about town.

★ Prior to the matches the Iranian team practised twice at the sports palace court — venue of the Davis Cup matches. After two days of training Iran's team administration, Mr. Abbas Golshtani, was overheard asking International Tennis Federation (ITF) referee Jeremy Shales "if the well kept secret" of "where the Jordanian team was practicing." Noted Mr. Golshtani: "We have been training there day and night and the court is closed when finish practice." Mr. Shales of course replied "you are sitting at the only court they have." A surprised Mr. Golshtani remarked: "Then they are not training!"

★ Mr. Shales did not sit idle on the days prior to the competition as snowy weather and "other little arrangements to take care of" prevented him from visiting some tourist sites. Mr. Shales visited the Sports Palace court to take a close look and explain where the event's banners and posters were to be properly placed. However, after he gave his instructions to a young man, the referee came back two days later and found out that someone else (and not the young man he had specifically explained everything to) was doing the required job and in a totally different way. To save himself the trouble of explaining the requirements again, Mr. Shales ended up putting the specified banners and other little arrangements up himself.

★ One of the biggest mix-ups happened on the day of the ill-fated doubles match Saturday. After Jordan's Hani Al Ali cramped in his singles match on Friday, Jordan's Davis Cup team officials apparently decided that Faris Al Azzouni would replace Ali and partner Imad Abu Hamda in the doubles match. The ITF referee was informed of the change. Later on, Abu Hamda said he preferred not to play as he would be exhausted for Sunday's singles match. The ITF referee was therefore informed that Laith and Faris Al Azzouni would play for Jordan. The referee in turn notified the Iranian team of the change. However, both the referee and the guest team were surprised when Abu Hamda and Faris Al Azzouni appeared at the court saying the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) had decided they would be playing after all. The ITF referee refused to accept the last minute change, as Davis Cup rules stipulate that any change to the doubles team required an hour's notification. The JTF officials had failed to do this and the match was postponed for 20 minutes while Laith Al Azzouni went in search of tennis shorts.



Jordan's number one tennis player Hani Al Ali (left) plays Iran's Mohammad Reza Tavakoli in the 4th match of the Davis Cup tournament held in Amman (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

★ Hopefully, not all observations of the Davis Cup tie are disappointing. The Iranian team thanked their Jordanian hosts for their warm reception, hospitality and efforts to make their stay an enjoyable one. The Jordanian officials did not only warmly welcome their guests after they arrived in Amman, they actually sent two cars to Syria to bring the delegation to Amman after their Damascus-Amman flight was cancelled.

## Diary

This week's diary is more about reactions to earlier diaries than on new acts and actions on the sidelines of politics and politicians.

**WE BEGIN WITH THE BEGINNERS:** On the floor of the Lower House of Parliament. Last week or a couple of weeks ago (Readers should check facts for themselves for once), the diary reported that some deputies were trying to lock horns with the government over the latter's policy of appointing civil servants. Those deputies accused a number of their colleagues, who are doubling as ministers, of using their official powers to exchange appointments for votes, i.e. of practising nepotism. As if in reaction to this duel, some 40 members of the House soon afterwards put their signatures to a petition indirectly calling for Jordan to unilaterally bust the U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq. When push came to shove in the second match, however, a number of the 40 honourable gentlemen who had signed up either did not make it to the session where a vote was to be taken on the proposal, or changed their minds completely. A majority (36 out of 70 members present) voted against the busting of the sanctions' proposal. Now, the cause for the change of mind — or heart — was initially rumoured to be that the 40 (or at least 36) deputies, who did not originally endorse the proposal, did eventually show up in force to defeat and humiliate the opposition. Whether that was done out of their own convictions or at the behest of the government is not clear. What is for certain, though, is that a prominent lobbyist for the Iraqi government had intervened and pleaded with the original signatories to change course on the proposal lest Jordan and Iraq suffer together, according to one report. One London-based Arabic newspaper did not fail to mention the name of the lobbyist. "He" is Nouri Ismail Liweiss, Iraq's ambassador to Jordan. But it ascribed to him a different role in the affair from what is reported here. Time will tell who is the more accurate amongst the reporters.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME:** The diary also wrote about the director of the National Aid Fund whose boss, the minister of social development, reportedly tried to fire him but did not succeed due to heavy intercession on his behalf. In that time, the diary spoke of the speaker of the Lower House, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, interceding with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to prevent the dismissal of a fellow Muslim Brotherhood member from his powerful job, which in theory could be used to buy votes back from needy voters who benefit from aid by the fund. But as it turned out, the report was inaccurate, since, according to very well-informed sources, no such contact between the speaker and the prime minister had taken place on this particular issue. How Dr. Farouk Badran kept his job despite Minister Amin Mashaqbeh's proven wish to get rid of him remains a mystery.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**STAYING THE DISTANCE:** Or remaining on course, in the long-running handicap race between the parliament and the government is difficult all right, but the relationship between the two top-weight distaffers is too important to ignore by the journalists. The Jordan Times recently wrote an article predicting that a cabinet reshuffle would come when the time was right, maybe at the end of Parliament's regular session in late March or early in April. That part of the story is so far holding up, but, according to plugged-in sources, the government is expected to lose only 12 of its members and not 16 as this newspaper had reported. A review of calculations by the diary, however, quickly reveals that both sides are in fact wrong. If the 10 minister-deputies decide to take their candidacies back to the voters, and another two ministers, we know of, want to try their luck and run for Parliament, then the total of dropouts from the cabinet would be 12, just as the government insiders have it. But if you add to that number the minister who has been trying to leave his post for nearly two years now, and the other who the public at large agrees should have left a year ago, the dropouts will be 14 rather than just 12. Somewhere in the middle, as would be expected from this government anyway.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**END OF HISTORY:** To go back, if only briefly, to direct reactions to past diary items, we have to tell the story of the ubiquitous Fahed Al Fanek, the well-known economist and columnist, who had faced some difficult problems with the Muslim Brotherhood Movement's leadership over the tone and substance of his critical articles. A fortnight ago, the Brotherhood's mouthpiece, Al Rabat, published an unsigned commentary in which the writer launched a blistering attack on Fanek's person prompting him to consider a libel suit against the weekly newspaper. Meanwhile, the outspoken columnist, thinking that three years of democracy would be enough for his colleagues in the media to show solidarity with a fellow hack, wrote a letter to about 25 editors and writers soliciting their backing and support. Few actually showed interest, but not necessarily in the way Dr. Fanek had hoped. Others, out of their commitment to stay away from potential trouble, continued writing about the problems of the world at large and never tackled a local issue, much less Dr. Fanek's feud with the Brotherhood. That was painful enough for him, but apparently nothing was as painful as the response of a fellow columnist at his own Al Ra'i newspaper. The latter seems to have felt it his duty to write back to Dr. Fanek explaining why he was not going to defend him. It is really simple. "You, Dr. Fanek, are a Christian," the fellow columnist wrote. "Al Rabat, on the other hand, represents the Islamists. And so, I do not want to be involved in a matter between two religious sides."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**IN TWO MINDS:** Finally, the most schizophrenic reaction to any diary item has come not from the Department of Interior or censorship, but from the Foreign Ministry. To the criticism that the consular section of the supposedly most sophisticated ministry sent late and clumsy notices to families of Jordanian citizens who die abroad, came two reactions. Representatives from that section called to protest and explain. The other, more politicised wing of the ministry, made similar calls but to congratulate and express agreement on what we said. "If and when a Jordanian dies abroad, his or her family is entitled to a personal visit by our people," one of the more refined diplomats said. "I agree that posting an advertisement in local newspapers, to the effect that 'the family of X citizen should come and see us for an urgent matter' is the worst message we can send."

Nermeen Murad



## The 'options' craze

By Jean-Claude Elias

If the quantity of optional equipment a modern car can be fitted with often leaves the client puzzled, a Personal Computer (PC) can receive an ever greater quantity and a variety of additions.

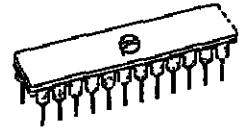
A basic PC configuration is made of the computer enclosure, a monitor or screen, a keyboard, a hard disk, one or two floppy disk drives and usually a mouse. Then, and only then, the fun starts with a very long list of small add-on electronic boards called interfaces. These can be installed, literally inserted, inside the PC enclosure. Each interface is designed to serve a specific purpose. Fax card, MIDI music card, Modem card to communicate with other computers on the public telephone network, video card to control your VCR or connect your video camera, the list would be one-mile long.

Then comes an equally long list of equipment called peripherals in computer language. Peripherals are not installed inside the PC main unit. They remain external devices, connected through various cables to the PC. The most commonly used peripheral is the printer. They come in all sizes and colours these days: Dot-matrix, lasers, link-jets, etc... Les known peripherals are the document scanners, which look like a small personal photocopier. The document, often an A4-size sheet, is inserted in the scanner which reads it via an optical system, and then feeds the document's image into the computer's memory. The image obtained can then be processed as the user wishes: Re-sized, cropped, saved on disk, merged with a text or simply reprinted.

The scanner also allows the use of OCR (optical character recognition) techniques, assuming you have a word processing programme, a scanner and a sheet of paper containing a text which can be either typed or even hand-written. OCR is a software that can read the text on the sheet once it is inserted in the scanner, "understand" the words, and produce a text that you can edit in the word processor. No need to re-type the words on the sheet.

For all those who have a lot of important data on their hard disk, a magnetic tape streamer is a must. This device lets the user back up — copy — the data from the hard disk and keep such copies on inexpensive tapes for archival and security purposes. Beyond back up, when no fixed hard disk, however big it is, is enough for your storage, the "removable hard disk" cartridge (typically 88 MB — eighty eight million characters — per cartridge) represents the

## chip talk



dream solution. That is before shifting up to the ultimate luxury in storage: The optical writeable-erasable laser disc with 650 MB per disc. The latest, though not the most expensive craze, is the "Optical" disk drive: A unit that gives 21 MB of storage on special 3.5" disks, and allows at the same time the read and write on regular magnetic 1.4 MB, 3.5" diskettes.

An often neglected option, erroneously considered by most as a luxury, is a high quality monitor. Users tend to measure the performance of a screen by its resolution only, which is the number of the dots that constitute the words and drawings on the monitor. The higher the number, the better the display is. While standard, commercially available screens feature excellent resolution, they still can be differentiated by other characteristics such as interlacing, refresh rate and emission level, to name only the simplest. An interlaced monitor displays the even-numbered lines it scans in one sequence or cycle, then the odd-numbered ones in another. At the high speed this is done, the human eye only sees one image. But with prolonged exposure this causes stress and weariness. Non-interlaced screens scan all the lines in one sequence and are obviously healthier for the eyes, though not for the pocket. The refresh rate is how often the same image is "projected" on the screen. Sixty times per second is considered low, seventy five is a better rate and ensures a stable display.

Finally new low radiation emission monitors are becoming more and more in demand, and a pre-requisite now in Scandinavian countries.

By the time a PC user has picked up a certain number of interfaces and peripherals, he or she might discover that the total investment has become much more important than the initial price of the main PC unit, but the result is often a rewarding and well performing system.

## The brighter side

By E. Yaghi

As part of a series of resolutions made for self-improvements, I've decided to be more optimistic about life. Hence, when someone tells me, "did you hear the latest about the Palestinian deportees? Israel has determined to return 100 of them and leave the rest to linger, languish, starve and freeze in the icy snow of a barren wasteland!"

I answer: "Gee, that's too bad, but hey, no problem. I've resolved that the U.N. is a joke and no matter, as long as I'm warm sitting in my house close to the heat and have running water plus television, radio and my daily newspaper, then things can't be that bad, can they?"

This is sheer optimism! I'm going to try not to be pessimistic and take a good friend's advice to love everyone, even those I hate. Consequently, whenever I watch the evil shenanigans of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the news, I try to mutter such complacent phrases as, "it must be tedious to be so atrocious and repugnant! I'm glad I'm not in his shoes!" And then I smile because it's so much better for my health and prevents impending complications like high blood pressure and ulcers.

Recently I read about some Iraqi children who were dying of cancer due to radiation which was caused by thousands of tonnes of bombs dropped by the coalition forces during the Gulf War. But I don't become apprehensive since Iraq is far away and I don't know those kids anyway because they're not mine. And after all, isn't America the "big brother" of the Middle East and kindly looking after our better interests? I try not to dwell on the petrodollars that dance in the eyes of such benevolent executives of multinational corporations like George Bush and instead wonder about amebas who have no permanent cell organs or supporting structures and what distress they must suffer because of their situation.

Whenever I see Bosnian children who are wounded from a senseless war or little orphans who have to fend for themselves or abandoned babies, I try to look on the bright side and exclaim, "Oh how cute little children are!" Of course, I don't mention that leg that was amputated or the long scar running the length of the child's stomach. But because I am an optimist and am done with cynicism, I go out and party instead!

Besides, I've done my share of helping the Bosnians. I sent a box of used clothing so my conscience is clear and now I sleep soundly at night knowing I played a big part in alleviating the suffering of others.

Well, how about Somalia then? I gave three cheers that after much starvation and no rich Arab country offered any substantial help, the "super heroes" rushed in to restore peace and order. I really did my best for the Somalis. I sang every day the chart breaker, We Are The World, and I'm sure that my efforts went a long way to feed and comfort the hungry. As for those who did die of hunger, I shed one whole tear to express my sympathy for them.

Back here at home, when I hear about the poverty stricken in Jordan, immediately I go to my refrigerator to check if it is well-stocked with food and comment: "There should be a lot of roses this year, we've had so much moisture!"

And I just adore buying vegetables which are irrigated by the dark polluted waters of Al Khirbet Al Soda. They have that extra special flavour and added tang! The price of bread has gone up too, but I've decided to overcome this obstacle by eating biscuits instead. The dinar buys half what it used to a few years ago, there is a lot of unemployment and an increase in crime (remember Abu Shakoush), but I don't fret. I'm playing it cool. And last year, I was assured by a long-range weather forecast that we wouldn't have snow like the previous February for another 140 years. My how time does fly!

The other day I attended a funeral. Everyone was sad and crying, but not me. (grammatically "I" for now I'm an optimist, so I cheerfully grinned and said in the most consoling words I could think of to a relative of the deceased: "Well, here today, gone tomorrow. We've all got to go sometime! Pass the coffee!")

If he didn't appreciate my attitude, that's his concern, not mine. I'm a newly made-over non-pessimist and can't be bothered by such trivial matters as life and death. After the funeral, I went home in complete nonchalance, had a nice meal and a good hot cup of tea and noted in thoughtful retrospect: "I'm glad it wasn't me!" — (another grammatical "I" but who cares?)

Am I being shallow? Not all all! I'm turning over a new leaf, and simply being realistic and am finished with pessimism. At any rate, there's no room for philosophical thinkers (who get stoned anyway) in this busy hectic world. So when someone says to me: "Did you know the hole in the ozone is getting bigger and the rain forests are being chopped down and destroyed?"

I reply, "Hey, no problem! Don't worry, be happy! Tomorrow is a new and better day. Such issues don't bother me. I am leaving them up to the children of the future — if there will be one!"

## Umm Qais — village of eternity

By Dr. Fathieh Saudi

**SUDDEN** enlightenment... The sharp edge of the horizon emerges from the olive grove-covered mountains that loom on both sides of the old road. My feet tingle, touching what I feel as a land of fertility. With the setting of the sun, the pale sulphur light becomes sprinkled with lilac, the air turns soft, and the village of Umm Qais takes shape.

So rare are such places in the world that team with fertility. Here I feel at one with Mother Earth.

A few metres away is the sun-washed gold rock of the Golden Heights. To the left, Lake Tiberias hemmed in by its own blue borders. In my childhood I drew so often Lake Tiberias, but I never saw the reflection of its colours on my face. To the right, the Yarmouk River meanders and the land of Palestine unfolds.

My Arab identity swells up and that map now seems as if it had been etched into my palm.

How could I explain the source of this charm and the magical pulse of Umm Qais?

Umm Qais is part of humanity's history and roots, a place of birth, living and dying with grace. Peace is

permeating the mind, the body relaxes, meeting the soul. Suddenly night falls and all borders disappear. The city of Tiberias takes on life and small lights glimmer here and there. I have one wish only — that my hands touch Tiberias water...

After a few days in the village I discover that Umm Qais has always been special. In the 4th century B.C., it was called Jadera, a Greco-Roman village. It was also the land of the Phoenician poet and philosopher Monib Ominos. It is also the land of Philodimous, of the first century B.C., who wrote: "To you I say, oh passer-by: As you are now, I was. As I am now, you will be. Enjoy life like a mortal."

Several civilisations passed through the gates of Umm Qais. The Jews invaded Umm Qais and Bogley liberated it. The Byzantines made it their religious heart and the Persians conquered it. The Arabs in the Yarmouk Battle freed Umm Qais once again.

I wonder what is left of those days. Today I can walk among the ruins of the church, theatre and past Achtar, the statue of the goddess of love and fertility. For me, on that first trip to Umm Qais, a new gate to my homeland had opened, however brief.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### HOWLERS LITERATURE

- ★ There are three kinds of poetry: lyric, dramatic and epidemic.
- ★ Shakespeare wrote tragedies, comedies and errors.
- ★ An epitaph is a short sarcastic poem.
- ★ Prospero is the clown in The Vicar Of Wakefield, by Charles Dickens.
- ★ Poetry is a thing you make prose of.
- ★ Homer wrote the Oddy.
- ★ Pope wrote principally in heroic couplets.
- ★ A morality play is a play in which the characters are goblins, ghosts, virgins, and other supernatural creatures!

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Do you speak English? *Eenta tit 'kallam Ingleez?*
- Does anyone here speak French? *Fee had hana bitkallam Faransawi?*
- I speak only German. *Ana hat 'kallam Alman al-faqat.*
- I know some Russian. *Arif shwayet Roussi.*
- Please speak more slowly. *Lut'fan, takallam shwayeh shway.*
- I understand you. *Ana fahman alk.*
- I did not understand. *Ana moosh fahman.*
- Repeat it, please. *Takallam marra tania, min fad'ak.*
- Do you understand me now? *Anta fahmet al-san.*
- I know! We know. *Ana arif/Ehna narif.*
- We don't know where we are! *Ehna ma'arif ray'been fain.*
- What is that? What are these? *Eish hada? Eish hadool.*
- How do you go there? *Keef hitrooh honak?*
- We need an interpreter. *Ehna ayzeen mu-tarjim.*

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- (1) What is tachygraphy?
- (2) What would you be watching if you saw a loop, rolls, spin, and bunt?
- (3) Which is the voice between SOPRANO and CONTRALTO?
- (4) Which famous American poet used the pseudonym HANS HAMMERGAFFERSTEIN?
- (5) Which wedding anniversary is symbolised by tin?
- (6) What do we call THREE VOWEL SOUNDS pronounced in ONE SYLLABLE?
- (7) What is sternutation?
- (8) In Exodus, how many plagues were visited upon the Egyptians?
- (9) Why are wedding rings worn on the fourth finger?
- (10) In which book would you find MRS. DOASYWOULDBEDONEYBY?

### MY NAME — This is what it means

- HATEM:** The judge; the ruler.
- HARITH** — One of the lion's names; money-amasser.
- HARIS** — The keeper; the protector.
- HAZIM** — Resolute & unreluctant; judicious; discreet.
- HAFIZ** : The guardian; the custodian.
- HAMED** — One who thanks or shows gratitude; one who praises or lauds. Also **HAMDAN** and **HAMEED** have

almost the same meaning.

**HABIB** — Sweetheart; lover; darling; friend.

### HUMOUR

★ A congressman, back home from Washington, was telling a few of his constituents about the dream he had. "I was sitting in the House," he said, "and must have dozed off. Soon I began dreaming that I was on the floor, making a speech. And, by golly, I was."

★ While the congressman was standing outside the post office in his home town out west, a cowboy galloped up, reined his horse to a halt and tossed the reins to the congressman. "Here, hold my horse for a few minutes, will you?" he asked. Drawing up himself to his fullest height the congressman coldly informed the cowboy that he was a congressman.

"Oh, I see," said the cowboy. "I'll get somebody else to do it, then. Thanks, though, for warning me."

★ Visitor: "But I assure you, my good man, that I am not a patient here. I am a congressman conducting an investigation into the treatment of mental patients in this hospital. Attendant: "Hey, Jee! Get the strait jacket, will you? I've got a violent case here."

### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

**LIPS:** Thin or cruel lips in a dream are a warning against making hasty judgement of others. Beautiful lips signify a successful sex life and happiness in love. Thick, overly sensual, or ugly lips forecast failure in love but success in business. Chapped dry, or sore lips indicate a loss of status or business reverses. Children's or babies' lips are a sign of true friendship where you least expected it.

**KISS:** The meaning of a dream kiss depends on the circumstances involved. If the kissing was pleasant, proper, and a sincere token of affection, it predicts happiness and contentment; but if it was of a perfunctory, meaningless, insincere, or illicit nature, it signifies a false friend or disappointment in love affair. A dream of kissing babies or small children forecasts success in a difficult undertaking. To dream of trying to avoid a kiss from someone you dislike portends a minor illness or a vexing experience.

**EMBRACE:** A sort of dream of contrary. To dream of being embraced predicts that impulsive behaviour, if not controlled, will subject you to unfair criticism. To dream of embracing others, or observing others embrace each other indicates basic family unity in spite of quarrels or differences of opinion.

### PUZZLES

1. What are the next two numbers in this series?  
1 4 13 28 49 —
2. (A) There are five lettered statements in this puzzle.  
(B) This is not a statement.  
(C) Only two of the statements are false.  
(D) Only one of the statements is true.  
(E) If you can solve this puzzle, you are a very logical person.  
Is statement E true?

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### Thursday, Feb. 11

1531 — King Henry VIII is recognised as supreme head of the Church in England.

1798 — French forces take Rome.

1929 — Lateran treaty establishes an independent Vatican City.

1944 — U.S. carrier planes strike heavy blows against Japanese positions on Eniwetok in Marshall Islands in Pacific during World War II.

1958 — Tunisia informs France that French warships no longer can use Bizerta.

1963 — United States recognises new government in Iraq after revolt.

1990 — African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela released after 27 years in South African prisons.

1991 — Iraq fires two Scud missiles at Israel.

1992 — Security forces arrest 4 Muslim guerrillas and confiscate weapons in Algiers.

### Friday, Feb. 12

1899 — Germany buys Pacific islands of Marianas, Caroline and Pelew from Spain.

1912 — The last Manchu dynasty emperor abdicates in China and provincial republic is established.

1953 — Britain and Egypt reach agreement on Sudan.

1956 — Soviet Union warns that dispatch of U.S. or British troops to Middle East will violate United Nations Charter.

1970 — Israeli air raid on scrap metal plant in Egypt kills 70 civilians.

1974 — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Soviet Nobel Prize winner, is arrested at his Moscow apartment.

1991 — Kremlin says Warsaw Pact will dissolve its military structure by April.

1992 — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali opens peace talks aimed at reaching a ceasefire in Somalia.

### Saturday, Feb. 13

1633 — Italian astronomer Galileo arrives in Rome and is detained by Roman Catholic Inquisition.

1861 — Francis II of Naples surrenders at Gaeta to Giuseppe Garibaldi.

1945 — Allied forces capture Budapest, Hungary, in World War II.

1968 — Ten thousand U.S. troops are in process of being transported to South Vietnam on speedup basis as fighting increases in that country.

1975 — Turkish Cypriots proclaim separate administration in Turkish-occupied northern part of Cyprus.

1989 — Soviet Union's Red Army leaves Afghan capital of Kabul in ceremony, leaving behind handful of soldiers.

1990 — Britain, France, Soviet Union, and U.S., plus two Germanys announce two-stage plan for talks leading to German reunification.

1991 — U.S. planes destroy bunker in Baghdad that allies identified as military site, but apparently con-

tained civilians, with reported death toll ranging from 40 to 500.

### Sunday, Feb. 14

1797 — British fleet under John Jervis and Horatio Nelson defeat Spanish off Cape Saint Vincent.

1893 — Hawaii is annexed by treaty to United States.

1929 — Seven hoodlums, rivals of Al Capone gang in Chicago, Illinois, are murdered in garage in what becomes known as "Saint Valentine's Day Massacre."

1943 — Soviet forces recapture Rostov from Germans in World War II.

1978 — U.S. government announces plans to sell billions of dollars worth of arms to Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well as to Israel, saying it will maintain military balance in Middle East.

1988 — Three officers of Yasser Arafat's mainline group in Palestine Liberation Organisation are killed in Cyprus when their booby-trapped car explodes.

### Monday, Feb. 15

1798 — Roman Republic is proclaimed by French after capture of Rome, and Pope Pius VI refuses to surrender temporal power and leaves Rome for Valence.

1806 — Franco-Prussian treaty against Britain, whereby Prussia closes her ports to British ships.

1894 — France and Germany reach agreement on boundaries between French Congo and Cameroon.

1897 — Allied powers land forces on Crete.

1988 — U.S. battleship Maine is blown up in Havana harbour, Cuba.

1942 — Singapore surrenders to Japanese forces in World War II.

1944 — U.S. troops complete reconquest of Solomon Islands in Pacific Ocean in World War II; nearly 1,000 British bombers pound Berlin.

1970 — Israeli oil pipeline is opened, linking Eliat to Ashkelon.

1973 — United States and Cuba sign agreement calling for prosecution or extradition of hijackers of airplanes and ships.

1978 — Agreement is announced in Rhodesia to bring blacks into key roles in government of Prime Minister Ian Smith.

1990 — Britain and Argentina restore diplomatic relations, broken off during the 1982 Falkland Islands War.

1991 — Iraq says it will withdraw from Kuwait but continues to demand that Israel withdraw from Arab territory and George Bush calls Iraqi statement a "cruel hoax."

South African government announces it will free all political prisoners and African National Congress agrees to end armed struggle against apartheid.

1992 — Sixteen injured Somali clans answer peace mediators with more fighting.

By The Associated Press



## Looking for the Little Tramp

By Philippa Neave

LONDON — Maybe people expected too much from the meeting of two geniuses. When Richard Attenborough, one of the great filmmakers, decided to tackle the biography of Charlie Chaplin who died in 1977, some expected the sparks to fly. In fact, the result is a non-controversial, \$26 million production which goes only part of the way into explaining the Little Tramp phenomenon.

This is the fabulous story of the boy from the London slums who went to Hollywood to try his luck and ended up creating one of the best-known and best-loved screen characters of all time. Dozens of filmmakers before Attenborough had attempted to make a film about the life of this icon, who is credited with revolutionising the history of cinema single-handedly, but only one was given the blessing from the notoriously prickly Chaplin estate. "When I knew Chaplin in the 1970s, he was always joking that every film company in the world had wanted to make a film about Charlie Chaplin," recalled Attenborough in an exclusive interview. When Chaplin's widow Oona agreed, the filmmaker could not believe his ears. "Not only did she say yes, but she invited me to come to the house, see all the archives, all his private letters and diaries" — a privilege granted to few outside the family.

At last Attenborough was able to dig deep behind this intensely public figure whose life was sometimes fraught with scandal, because of his

attraction to very young women, and who had a reputation for being ruthless at work and very tight-fisted despite his wealth. The movie Chaplin does not shed much light on the private motivations of this controversial man whose life is the stuff of legend. British critics have accused Attenborough of being soft on Chaplin, highlighting only his positive sides. Did he hold back? "I must be scrupulously honest. I would not have wished to distress the family, and they would have been equally distressed if I had made a dishonest film," was Attenborough's answer.

"The film engaged everything I love: Biography and the social significance of a man's work... Chaplin changed the face of the greatest communications media the world has ever invented," he added with characteristic passion. "He showed us that the cinema can reveal one human being to another, that it is a 'cri du coeur', that it puts real people in circumstances the audience can understand and that can change the way the audience thinks."

Will the movie Chaplin change the way we think of the man who made audiences laugh and cry at the same time in every corner of the globe? Probably not. The film is not very funny: Audiences laugh mostly at the end, when shown footage of the Little Tramp. But what it does do is cast a touching look on a life that started when Chaplin's mother (played by Geraldine, the eldest of Oona and Charlie's eight children), a performer in cheap dancehalls, collapses

before the audience, exhausted and hungry, and 5-year-old Charlie scampers on stage to finish off her routine, not missing a beat. A few years later, when he was 14, as the next of kin, he was to commit his mother to an insane asylum for paupers.

"When I met Charlie's second wife (he was married four times), who is the only person alive who knew him really intimately, I asked her what abiding memory she had of him: it was his fear, his terror of going mad like his mother and his grandmother," says Attenborough. It was the intense passion that animated the man that fascinated Attenborough. "His passion was like breathing. If he couldn't say or create what he wanted, everything else took second place. His love affairs, his wives, everything was marginalised once he was committed to his work."

This was the root of a formidable challenge. Who could portray such a giant? It took Attenborough months to decide. He considered almost every major screen actor, and rather like his casting of Ben Kingsley, a relative outsider, for the role of Gandhi in one of his most famous biopics, Attenborough picked someone almost unknown — 26-year-old American Robert Downey Jr. Downey had played a few roles in a series of forgettable films. "The least important element was this," said Attenborough, gesticulating like Chaplin with his feet pointing outward and twirling an invisible cane. "If they can't do that, they shouldn't be acting. What is difficult is to convey the passion that

drove Charlie in his work, love, politics — everything. When the camera goes close on the face, you have to be able to see behind the eyes the mental anguish, the pain, the commitment, the struggle to create. The first thing I learned in studying Charlie and his manner of creativity is the extent of his passion. It was frightening, extraordinary, unbelievable."

Downey was among a group of struggling young Hollywood actors who are perpetually scrambling for roles and will take almost anything they get. But this was an incredibly challenging role: The actor had to age from 17 to over 80 and still be believable. During the tests, Downey leapt off the screen. "It was a question of his ability to convey the pain, the mental controversy that goes with creativity. Downey not only looked like Charlie, but he had great physical ability, he was balletic and athletic and he has a fantastic ear. No British actor would not be proud of Robert's Cockney accent — it's perfection. But most of all, it's in here," Attenborough says, pointing to his eyes.

On screen, the resemblance is uncanny, and Downey's months of studying Chaplin's mannerisms, down to the finest detail, paid off. In real life, this good-looking, tousle-haired youth looks and speaks like a California kid. But clearly, he took his role so seriously that he still feels inhabited by the persona of Chaplin months after the filming has ended. "I haven't really been de-programmed yet. It is a weird sensation," he explained in an exclusive interview. "Sometimes I wonder if there isn't some big spirit connection between Charlie and I. Maybe I need to relax and let it go... Sometimes I looked in the mirror, and I felt he was there for a second. There were times I did not know how I did the things I did," as if the inspiration came from elsewhere, he explained.

Downey's life is in some ways parallel to that of Chaplin's. He too was born into a show business family with an actress for a mother and a screenwriter and director for a father. He started to act at a young age "because my father couldn't afford to pay any child actors... Since I was very young, I have known that I am a performer. It's unrealistic, in a way, because you get to feel like you don't have a real life. Somehow, you are always preoccupied with performing. I think it was Shakespeare who said life is a stage. Well, I'm on it."

Downey spent weeks training to speak, move, look and act like Chaplin. He read every book ever written on Chaplin, learned to play tennis with his left hand like him and spent hours speaking London's Cockney slang. "I would sit there and just spend an hour practicing picking up a fork," he recalls. "At times I felt such a huge responsibility, having to keep infusing his art with social criticism, pathos and a feeling of dignity under trying circumstances."

The pressure on a young actor with little experience was enormous. "You know you carry the whole film and that's scary. Sometimes during the shooting I wanted to hide and just do the ostrich thing. It was very intimidating. There were lots of British people on the set and I had to be British. You know, it's like one of those dreams when you are naked on stage and you don't have your lines memorised." Working with Attenborough was also daunting. "He is from such a different school of thought than I am that I wondered about it. For him, who has lived through the war and all that, any day that is not spent under the bombs is a day in heaven. I am spoiled, I am one of the 'me' generation. But we really connected on the emotional level, with the higher purpose of what we were doing."

Whether the film will open more doors for Downey is still uncertain, but he believes it was a privilege to have worked with Attenborough. "I admire his leadership so much," he said earnestly, "and his ability to motivate others through his attitude. On top of everything, he is an amazing actor. At times we would do scenes, and he would ask me to do it again. I would say, 'OK, you do it,' and I would watch. I trusted him. I would do whatever he asked me to do." Downey's performance was convincing enough to impress Chaplin's own daughter Geraldine.

"He's a genius," she exclaimed without hesitation during an interview. "Robert is incredible, absolutely extraordinary. It really moved me when I saw the film." Thin and elegant, Geraldine becomes animated when she recounts part of the filming that took place in the Chaplin family home in Switzerland. "I looked outside and Robert was on the terrace. Suddenly, it was daddy who was there. My heart leapt... So many others who tried to imitate my father were ugly, and Robert is good looking, as my father was. He doesn't really look like him, but in



Richard Attenborough, the director and producer of such epics as

Gandhi, received full approval from the Chaplin estate to do a biography of the Little Tramp

costume he was perfect. His mannerisms were so perfect I told him 'you are possessed, you are the reincarnation of my father!'"

Geraldine Chaplin also felt strong emotions when she played the role of her own grandmother, who struggled to work in tatty dancehalls to keep her two children fed, finishing her days in the grimiest of Victorian mad-houses. "I never knew my grandmother," the actress said. "For me, it was just another role, until I actually saw the film. I thought, poor woman. It really shocked me."

Although he picked an outsider for the main role, Attenborough hedged his bets by lining up a solid cast behind him, including Dan Aykroyd, Anthony Hopkins, Kevin Dunn, Kevin Kline and Moira Kelly, who is bound to attract attention for her convincing portrayal of Oona Chaplin. She has Geraldine's full appreciation. "I saw her before the film without makeup and I thought, she's got nothing to do with my mother. She's just a kid and she is going to have a hard time with all my brothers and sisters watching her every move. But Moira Kelly is an extraordinary actress; she really captured the essence of my mother, her joyfulness, her being, and that is hard because physically, she really does not look much like her."

Commenting on the film, Geraldine Chaplin explained: "It was a difficult film to make and Attenborough did it with an enormous amount of respect. There had been dozens of film projects, musicals and all sorts of really awful ideas. My mother agreed to let him do it, allowed him to have access to

anything he wanted. Her only condition was that she didn't want anything to do with it, she didn't want to talk to him or get involved in the writing. She asked Attenborough to excuse her, but said she did not want to see the film."

Oona Chaplin never did see it. It was released in London recently and is due for world release in the coming months, but she died five weeks before shooting was due to start.

If Chaplin the movie does not possess the magic of

Charlie Chaplin films and of the Little Tramp, it is a loyal and colourful biography of one of the greatest men in cinema. Doubtless, Robert Downey's wish will be fulfilled. "I am hoping that the film will re-introduce people to Chaplin and that they will get interested in him and his work. I wasn't really a fan before, but now I'm nuts about him. I suggest everyone go out and rent a video of one of Chaplin's movies." The magic never dies — World News Link.



A relative beginner, Robert Downey Jr. has managed to reflect the passion that made Chaplin a genius in his field

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, Feb. 11

#### 8:30 Uncle Buck

Uncle Buck invites a sick friend to stay a few days at his house. But his stay turns out to be longer than expected.

#### 9:10 The Human Factor

Starring: John Mahoney, Jan-Lucas, Kurt Deutsch and Matthew Ryan

Two medical students are able to make right diagnosis on two difficult cases, thus moving a step ahead towards a promising career.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Juggernaut (Feature Film)

Starring: Omar Sharif, Richard Harris and Anthony Hopkins

A passenger ship with 1,200 people on board is threatened to be blown up by a terrorist who gives them only a few hours to pay the ransom he asks for.

### Friday, Feb. 12

#### 8:30 Coach

The Bachelor Party Haiden is invited to attend a

party for men only.

#### 9:10 E.N.G.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Columbo

Starring: Peter Falk

An old, once-famous star dreams of a spectacular comeback, but discovers that murder is the only way for her to fulfil her dream; and Columbo investigates.

### Saturday, Feb. 13

#### 8:30 America's Funniest Home Videos

#### 9:00 Documentary

#### 9:30 Science Workshop

An episode about the use of solar energy in protection and desalination of sea water.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 The Fatal Image (Feature Film)

Starring: Michele Lee and Justine Bateman

Two American tourists get trapped in a deadly crime circle in Paris.

### Sunday, Feb. 14

#### 8:30 Who's The Boss?

#### The Unsinkable Tony Micelli

Tony refuses to join little Billy in a swimming contest because of his fear of water.

#### 9:10 Documentary: "The Visit"

#### Little Big Man

The story of Mathew, a young British boy, born with a genetic defect that inhibits his normal growth.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Law and Order

The district Attorney's office works on convicting the murderer of an important businessman.

### Monday, Feb. 15

#### 8:30 Step By Step

Starring: Patrick Duffy and Suzanne Somers

Carol's daughter Dana gets into trouble while she is secretly at a dance party not for girls of her age.

### 9:10 (New Mini-series)

#### Marlin Bay

Marlin Bay Lodge sits uneasily next to a small rural settlement, where locals struggle to make a living off the land.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Jordan Weekly

#### 10:40 Vietnam

As air raids continue on Vietnam and the war gets uglier, rage and horror grip the people of Australia, who start to express their feelings with demonstrations and unrest.

### Tuesday, Feb. 16

#### 8:30 Perfect Strangers

Going Once, Going Twice...

When the two friends attend an auction, they come back with more than they had bargained for.

#### 9:10 Dirt Water Dynasty

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Big Man

Starring: Bud Spencer and Denis Karvil

Experience detectives Jack and Simon, who work for a major insurance company, investigate the story behind a series of mysterious deaths.

### Wednesday, Feb. 17

#### 8:30 Saved By The Bell

Kelly is bitterly disappointed when she discovers that her relationship with an older, sophisticated guy is not always a bed of roses.

#### 9:00 One Step Ahead

Another episode about Jordanian women in the field of medicine which features interviews with Dr. Nawal Fareh and Dr. Najwa Boulos. The programme is presented by Nisreen Al Tal and directed by Mohammad Hmoud.

#### 9:30 Classic Cars

#### "Red And Sexy"

The programme talks about the manufacture of special cars in Italy where fine, classic cars are considered objects of art.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Bodyline

## Crumbling Bolshoi faces 2 years without a home

By Mark Trevelyan  
Reuter

MOSCOW — Repairs to the crumbling Bolshoi Theatre will force it to close for at least two years and "murder" its world-renowned ballet and opera company unless a new temporary home is found, its director said.

"People think the theatre is just columns, an auditorium and nothing more," Vladimir Kokonin told a news conference.

"But in the theatre, the main thing is people — if the troupe is left without a building, it will be tantamount to the murder of the theatre."

Mr. Kokonin said he expected repairs to start about 1995 and take at least two years, but the government was so far taking the problem of relocating the troupe "not very seriously".

The classical 19th-century theatre, its delicate pink facade crowned by a statue of Apollo and his chariot, is built over an underground river which is seeping away at its foundations and causing severe structural problems.

Mr. Kokonin said repairs would cost more than \$300 million and require foreign capital, though it was unclear in what form.

Until the government worked out a plan to repair the theatre and rehouse its troupe, the employees of the Bolshoi would "stay put and wait till it falls on our heads", he added.

Structural problems are not the only ones facing the Bolshoi, whose 2,000 employees and just under 1,000 performers make it the world's biggest theatre, according to Mr. Kokonin.

Economic crisis in Russia has hit the arts as hard as any other sector, although a decree by President Boris Yeltsin last September guaranteed the Bolshoi state funding on about the same level as before.

Closure of some specialist ballet and music schools means the theatre can no longer count on a practically inexhaustible supply of young talent, and must work harder at finding and training future stars.

Mr. Kokonin said no major stars had left permanently for the West since the flamboyant Tatar Irek Mukhamedov left for London in 1991. But many dancers, paid the equivalent of just \$20 to \$25 per month, sign temporary foreign contracts over which the Bolshoi has no control.

Artistically, the theatre is criticised for endlessly recycling its repertoire of classical operas and ballets with little flair or innovation.

A special "Bolshoi season" now running at London's Royal Albert Hall was panned by some critics for presenting only highlights of well-known ballets like Swan Lake, an approach which purists say trivialises the art.

Mr. Kokonin said the theatre aimed to stage two or three new operas and ballets a year. A Russian-Italian production of Borodin's Prince Igor will move from Genoa to Moscow this year and co-productions of Aida and Turandot are planned.

In some cases, new artistic freedoms have transformed classical operas that ran in specially doctored versions in Soviet times.

By order of dictator Josef Stalin, Glinka's opera A Life For The Tsar was renamed Ivan Susanin in the 1930s and all references to the tsar removed from its libretto. The original version has now been restored.

"I'm an optimist," Mr. Kokonin said. "Would we like to return to the past? No. There may be problems, but we will solve them somehow."



## Third World discovers you are what you eat

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Heart disease, diabetes, colon cancer and obesity, all ailments found regularly in the overfed industrialised world, are beginning to make their appearance in parts of the developing world. Health officials studying the unwelcome trend say changes in eating habits and lifestyle patterns are largely to blame.

While the wealthy countries have long embarked on a campaign to improve their diet and live a healthier lifestyle, the developing nations are lagging far behind, say nutrition experts. Deaths from cardiovascular diseases and incidences of other diet-related diseases have been declining for the past 15 years in many European countries, and in North America, Japan and Australia, thanks to health education campaigns to reduce the intake of unsaturated fats, cholesterol and salt, and to take more exercise and eliminate smoking. But diet-related diseases are killing a growing number of people in the developing world and Eastern Europe.

A recent study by the World Health Organisation (WHO) found that the number of diet-related premature deaths in the 55 to 64 age group fell by 9 per cent between 1960 and 1989 in the industrialised world. But in the Third World, the number of premature deaths from diet-related diseases rose by 17 per cent during the same period. In the over 65 age group, there was no change in the number of deaths in the industrialised world. But the developing world saw a massive 37 per cent jump during that period.

Unlike the developed world, where killer diseases related to bad diet and exercise patterns tend to strike the poorer sectors of society, the developing world has a particular — though not exclusive — problem with its

emerging middle classes, say food experts. "It is linked to a growth in income in some sectors," said Elisabeth Helsing, a regional advisor for nutrition for the WHO. "For example, in rice eating countries, where the grandfather used to have a large plate of rice and a little bit of sauce, today's middle class has a lot of sauce and meat, and a little bit of rice."

The growing incidence of killer diseases usually associated with an affluent lifestyle are all the more alarming in the developing world, whose main problem is fighting hunger and poverty. "In many of these countries, you have poverty and prosperity side by side," said Ms. Helsing. "One possible side effect is that as the middle and upper-middle classes get health problems such as heart disease, they will want intensive care wards and ambulances, for example, and this could take resources away from primary health care for the poorer segments of the population. It is something to be watched very closely."

Said Patricia Dexter, a nutrition officer at the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO): "There are 780 million people who do not have enough to eat or are chronically energy deficient. Yet a number of developing countries also have problems of obesity. Many countries are facing both these problems at the same time." Obesity is a growing problem among children in many developing nations. Childhood obesity is now common in many Caribbean countries, say FAO experts, and as many as one in three urban women are grossly overweight in the Caribbean. WHO figures show that 5 per cent of pre-school children are overweight in Iran, almost 6 per cent in Mauritius, 10 per cent in Jamaica and almost 11 per cent in Chile. In later life, obesity

can seriously increase a person's chances of developing heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

High blood pressure is becoming a major problem in East and West Africa. In various developing countries, most notably Ghana, Kenya and Papua New Guinea, hypertension — strongly associated with coronary heart disease and strokes — is increasing in the urban population. Studies in Kenya have shown the main cause to be an increase in salt intake.

High rates of non-insulin-dependent diabetes — which can be triggered by a sedentary lifestyle, poor diet, excessive alcohol consumption, stress and urbanisation — are being diagnosed in urban communities in India, China and Mauritius and in immigrants from the Indian subcontinent who have settled in the U.K., the Caribbean, Singapore and South Africa. Very high rates are found among the Fiji Indians and the Australian aborigines.

Heart disease is increasing in Mexico, India and the Near East. Cardio-vascular and other degenerative diseases now rank as the second biggest killer — after infectious diseases — in the developing world. Cardio-vascular diseases, which account for 24 per cent of all deaths worldwide, are linked to obesity and to the amount of unsaturated fats in the diet, as well as to other lifestyle patterns, such as lack of physical exercise and smoking.

While smoking is declining by an overall 1.5 per cent per year in the industrialised world, it is increasing by an annual 2 per cent in the developing nations. Japan has decreased its mortality rate due to diet-related diseases by 27 per cent in the past five years, Finland by 22 per cent, the U.K. by 14 per cent and Ireland by 9 per cent. But during the same

period, the number of deaths from diet-related diseases in Thailand has soared by 155 per cent, in Egypt by almost 150 per cent, in Ecuador by 100 per cent and in Mauritius by 85 per cent.

In Singapore, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Greece, the mortality rates are also rising sharply. But some of the highest upturns are in Eastern Europe. In Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and Russia, deaths related to chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, stroke, heart attacks, liver disease and cirrhosis are more frequent than in most Western countries and are rising fast. "All of Eastern Europe is going the wrong way," said Ms. Helsing. "I think that is partly due to a lack of awareness on the part of the population and partly on the part of the policy makers. Our policy makers in the industrialised world are aware of the relationship between diet and diseases. Farmers are producing leaner cattle and butchers are cutting their carcasses to give leaner meat."

But go into a meat shop in Russia and it looks as if the animals have been victims of a chainsaw massacre. The meat is cut up and sold, all of it at the same price, and the piece you get depends on your relationship with the person behind the counter. The fat is prized because there is more energy in it.

One of the main problems, say nutritionists, is that eating habits have failed to adapt to changing lifestyle patterns. As more and more people abandon the rural areas to live in cities, they fail to adjust the quality and the calories of their food intake to their new, less physically demanding environment. "When people move into urban areas, they become more sedentary, and that tends to produce obesity," said FAO nutrition officer Pat Dexter. "Urban growth is

increasing more rapidly in the developing countries than in the developed world."

In an urban environment, people take less exercise because of the availability of mechanised transport and the attraction of television. "And the children have less space to play in," said Ms. Helsing. Poor food distribution is another culprit, especially in the centrally planned economies of the former Communist nations of Eastern Europe, where consumer demands for freshness and quality have traditionally been ignored. "Bad food distribution leads to poor dietary variety and choice," said Ms. Helsing. "This is especially lacking in the former Soviet Bloc where there was this long-term plan for food supplies. That is one of the things they have to work on."

Nutritionists say a key element in tackling the problem will be to educate the population with healthy eating campaigns, similar to the ones that have been so successful in the industrialised world. In some areas, work has already begun. "The FAO has programmes to promote traditional foods, so that people will be encouraged to eat the foods their grandmothers ate," said Dexter. "We try to emphasise nutrition education, starting at a young age. We support government programmes that work side by side with the education programmes to implement them in a practical way, for example, through school lunch programmes."

But educating the public will be next to useless unless there are changes in agricultural, distribution and marketing practices, say experts. In the developed world, the farming industry



New-found prosperity has brought untimely death and heart disease to many people in the developing world whose diet has changed

started breeding cattle with less fat on it in response to concern about the link between animal fat and cardiovascular diseases and cancer. The food industry has been forced to adapt its products, producing low-fat milk and dairy products, more whole grain bread and unrefined sugar and rice. At the same time, researchers have been looking at ways to use excess fat trimmed from carcasses and skimmed from milk. "For example, it can be fed to animals," said Ms. Helsing.

Ms. Helsing points to Mauritius as a case in point. Concerned about a serious rise in the number of deaths caused by diet-related diseases, the government called in the WHO for advice.

"They have been aware of their problem for a long time, because diabetes is very common there and they have a tremendously high premature mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases and cancer," said the Norwegian-born nutrition expert. "I went there to look at their food pattern and I found that in this tropical island sugar crops took up most of the space and there was very little cultivation of other vegetables. What little there was went to the tourist hotels."

The government of Mauritius is now planning to write a policy document which will examine ways of increasing what Ms. Helsing describes as the population's "ridiculously low vegetable intake."

In order for any long term solution to be found, she says, agriculture, education and public health must work hand in hand. "We know that it works," said Ms. Helsing. "Both Norway and Finland had nutrition policies and the message has gone down to the people and to the producers at the same time. The proportion of fat in the diet has actually gone down — contrary to most of the rest of the world — from more than 40 per cent of the total energy intake to below 35 per cent today. There is no magic bullet, but there are many contributors, from the dairy to the butchers to the animal breeders accepting that they have to go in for leaner animals. Everyone has to do their share." — World News Link.

## Routine mammograms for women younger than 50 not necessary

By Belinda Hopkinson  
The Associated Press

PARIS — Women in their 40s need not get routine mammograms, a committee of experts has concluded at the close of a breast cancer screening conference.

Routine mammograms in women older than 50 are

clearly linked to lower death rates, but current research has not shown decisively that women in their 40s benefit from regular breast cancer screening, experts from the European Society of Mastology announced.

The conclusion by the society's 17-member Evaluation Committee opposes a recent

decision adopted by the American Cancer Society, which recommends that women in their 40s continue to have mammograms every one or two years, despite no firm evidence that younger women benefit from the exams.

"We are being more cautious and skeptical than the Americans," said Nicholas Wald, chairman of the Evaluation Committee and a medical professor at the University of London. "Before Europeans make breast screening routine in public health programmes, for women under 50, further research must be done to show that such tests will actually reduce the death rate in these younger women."

The committee also concluded that monthly breast self-examination need not be recommended as public health policy in Europe.

"Does that mean that a woman should ignore her

breasts? No. If a woman notices that something is wrong with her breast, then she should consult a doctor," Dr. Wald said. "But monthly self-examination of the breast, and even examination by a trained practitioner, have shown to be far less effective than a mammogram."

The committee called for further research on breast cancer screening in women younger than 50. Until now, research performed in the United States, Canada and Europe has failed to show that younger women's lives are saved by mammograms.

The conference also launched the Europa Donna Charter Project, which calls for improved breast cancer screening, treatment and research.

Breast cancer kills 14,000 French women a year and is the cancer that causes the most deaths in European women.

## ANSWERS

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Shorthand, especially ancient Greek and Roman.
2. Aerobatics.
3. Mezzo-soprano.
4. Henry W. Longfellow.
5. Tenth.
6. Triphthong.
7. Sneezing.
8. Ten.
9. Ancients believed it contained a nerve going straight to the heart.
10. The Water Babies.

★ ★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES

1. 76 and 109. The differences between successive numbers by 6 each time.
2. It is not possible to deduce whether statement E is true or false.

★ ★ ★ ★

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

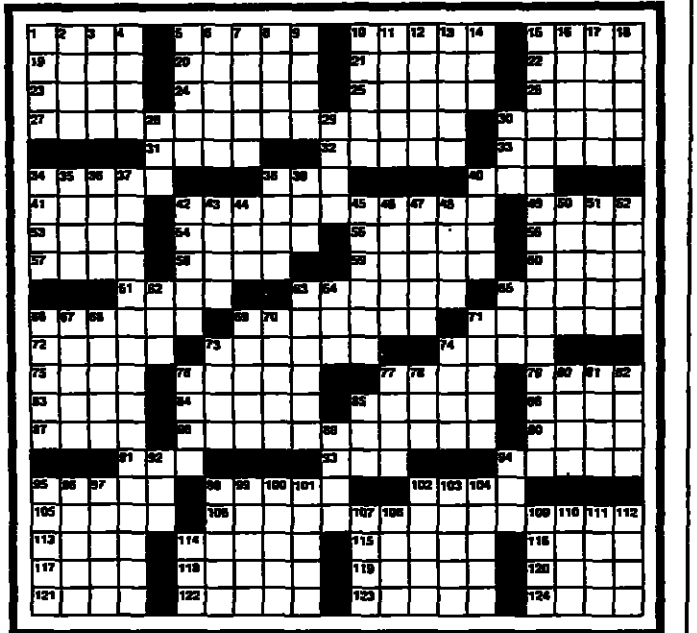
INTERNATIONAL MENU

By Joan D. Berbrich

- ACROSS
1. A little better
  2. French dancer
  3. Italian post
  4. Open voice
  5. Behold, to
  6. Collier
  7. Stage play
  8. Singer John
  9. Eight, prefix
  10. Music and poetry
  11. Orange
  12. Move a bit
  13. Yell in the morning
  14. Play the game
  15. Poses
  16. Harbours
  17. Harbour towns
  18. "I was the"
  19. "I was the"
  20. "I was the"
- DOWN
1. Litter
  2. Stage
  3. Not so much
  4. AES name
  5. Main model
  6. Singing poets
  7. Arabian ruler
  8. Arabian ruler
  9. Arabian ruler
  10. Arabian ruler
  11. Arabian ruler
  12. Arabian ruler
  13. Arabian ruler
  14. Arabian ruler
  15. Arabian ruler
  16. Arabian ruler
  17. Arabian ruler
  18. Arabian ruler
  19. Arabian ruler
  20. Arabian ruler

40 Small cyst

41. And pretty maid
42. Thrown at Madrid
43. Springsteen
44. Angry
45. Small path
46. Seed covering
47. Vague
48. Roger's father
49. Outdoor chef's
50. Offering
51. Rock
52. Toward the rear
53. Free-for-all
54. Snakes
55. Falcon or
56. "I was the"
57. Unpretentious
58. "I was the"
59. "I was the"
60. "I was the"

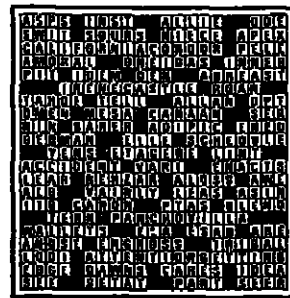


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. If easy crossword puzzles are boring, why should hard cryptograms be so frustrating?
2. A fully happy man will work for his pleasure rather than work for money.
3. In baseball line-ups, maybe the last-of-their-kind are called table setters because they set up feasts of rum.
4. Hungry astronaut applauds "Out to launch" placard hung atop gantry.

### CRYPTOGRAMS

1. NUTS ACH CNQVT EBQL ACHSCY. OUT  
OSKRRTZ ACHSKY. HQV QST SEY QR KE.  
CSZ RCS CLQV. —By Rita Salvato
2. BLOT SPUNK ATLAST WTULOT FTQNZTTJ  
ZQJ ZPOW. LHITYS ZPOWY. FITZ BITMY  
ZPOWY ULOTB PAMZ HIT SLBHTYK. —By Eugene T. Malachuk
3. AML VUDDU: ANN SUD MOLD SUM MONEY  
ED DAVO DU DEY. —By Frank N. Stein
4. NOR SKEM SMKEI WIOBG ORG BIG FAKE.  
OBBIFFIG WD YUURPIB. PHOKNIC GIUIWI  
YU "FORKEO PHOAFI" —By Ed Huddleston





## NHF, French doctor discuss dialysis-unit needs of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday met with Maria Darleguy, of the French organisation: Transports Humanitaires Sans Frontières (THSF), who is currently on a five-day visit to Jordan, and discussed means of developing new haemodialysis units in Jordanian public hospitals, and of more cooperation between Jordan and THSF.

THSF has donated eight machines which will be used to equip a new haemodialysis unit housing five machines with a specialised lab at Mafrag Hospital, while three others will be housed at Al Bashir Hospital to support existing equipment.

Yesterday, Dr. Darleguy met at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation with its President, the under-

secretary of the Ministry of Health, the director of Al Bashir Hospital who is also the president of the Friends of Kidney Patients Society (FKPS) and the head of the Pediatric Department at the University of Jordan Hospital, and discussed means of cooperation between the French organisation and Jordan.

They also discussed the possibility of equipping a six-bed intensive care pediatric unit at the Jordan University Hospital.

According to FKPS statistics, there are over 750 patients with kidney failure problems in Jordan.

Each haemodialysis machine carries a price tag of JD 20,000, while haemodialysis services cost about JD 160 a week for each patient.



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (right) and University of Maine President Frederick Hutchinson (left) sign an agreement of cooperation Wednesday in Amman (File photo)

## Jordan University signs agreement with University of Maine

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan and the University of Maine in the United States signed a cooperation agreement Wednesday to develop academic relations in the fields of research, faculty exchanges, student exchanges and training, and in the mutual interest of both institutions to address the goals and objectives of the Jordanian Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

The agreement, signed by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh and University of Maine President Frederick E. Hutchinson, calls for both institutions to host reciprocal visits from academic staff to deliver lectures and seminars, spend their sabbatical leaves, and participate in the various academic activities conducted by both universities.

It stipulates that the University of Maine shall provide training opportunities for University of Jordan academic and administra-

tive staff in areas relating to natural resources conservation and wildlife.

Faculty members of both institutions, the agreement states, shall collaborate in undertaking joint research projects and in exchanging scientific experience and consultation in the fields of natural resources conservation.

In addition, it calls on both institutions to encourage the exchange of undergraduate and graduate students in all academic fields through a reciprocal exchange.

The two universities will also encourage the interchange of university publications, dissertations and scientific journals and bulletins of mutual interest which pertain mainly to the latest developments and innovations in the fields of natural resources management, the agreement states.

The cooperation agreement is to last four years.



## The 'romantic' Arab woman as painted by Nazir Nab'a

By Stephanie Genkin and Curt Ryan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tucked away on Gardens Street, Baladna Art Gallery provides an intimate setting for visitors to take in the local art scene. The gallery, in broadening its horizons, is currently featuring the work of Syrian artist Nazir Nab'a.

Mr. Nab'a is a veteran of the Arab art world, having exhibited his work for almost thirty years. Like so many artists displaying their work in Amman recently, he strives to convey a philosophical view of the East in his paintings.

The current collection at Baladna Art Gallery is comprised of a series of paintings, largely concentrating on studies of individual women.

While the works are dominated by the human figure, each combines elements of portraiture with those of still life painting.

Detailed attention is paid to the presentation of the human face, portrayed in a soft, delicate manner. The placement of the figures, cloaked in long, flowing, and sometimes revealing gar-

ments, adds a sensual quality to the images.

Enriching the canvas still further, Mr. Nab'a creates an atmosphere for his subject, by incorporating familiar objects of the still life genre.

Each portrait is enhanced by folds of cloth, vases, flowers, and baskets of fruit.

Perhaps the most striking feature of his work, however, is his use of both rich and muted colours, varying from picture to picture.

The artist's feeling for colour imbues the works with emotion. Mr. Nab'a produces a highly textured quality to the garments of his subjects, not so much by adding paint, as through delicate and selective removal of colour.

This effect is created by dabbing at the canvas to soak up excess paint. The end result is an image that conveys three-dimensionality, and a shimmering quality suggesting movement.

Viewing the collection as a whole offers a colourful glimpse of Mr. Nab'a's romantic image of the Arab woman.

The exhibition will remain on display at Baladna Gallery until Feb. 15.

## Cruise ships to Aqaba will not be searched

AMMAN (Agencies) — Cruise liners bound for Jordan will no longer be searched under the U.N.-enforced Iraq blockade, but cargo ships will continue to be, officials said Wednesday.

The change is expected to boost tourism in Jordan's Port of Aqaba, once Iraq's key international trade lifeline before the Gulf crisis.

Sufian Al Mheissen, director of the Jordan Shipping Association Agents (JSAA) told Reuters he had been informed officially of the change, which took effect February 1, in a letter.

"They sent us a memo saying that tourist ships heading to Aqaba will not be inspected anymore," Mr. Mheissen said.

Cruise ships en route to Aqaba can sail past maritime inspectors in the Red Sea without being boarded if the trip is registered 60 days in advance of arrival at Jordan's southern port and winter sea resort, said Tawfiq Kawar, Chairman of the JSAA.

The vessels must also certify that only passengers are on board.

"There should be no hatches and no holes in the ship and it will be released immediately after the inspection team sees their documents," Mr. Kawar said.

Ships carrying goods to be unloaded at Aqaba remain under strict inspection.

Western warships patrol the

Red Sea for contraband in possible violation of a U.N. embargo slapped on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

According to the U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida, which controls American naval forces in the Gulf region, about 16,000 ships have been intercepted.

According to Mr. Mheissen, the latest ship intercepted was an unidentified Turkish freighter on Jan. 20, which was forced to dock and unload its cargo at the Suez Canal for further inspection. The ship was released on Feb. 7.

Since December, at least three ships have been intercepted, Mr. Mheissen said.

"The alliance ships still adopt the same operations against cargo ships in the Red Sea coming to Aqaba," he said.

But he added that he hoped the recent move to allow passenger liners, scared off over the past two years because of strict inspection by the U.S.-led allies, to return to Aqaba on regional cruises.

The first cruise ship to arrive at Aqaba under the new rules is expected this month with some 2,000 tourists on board.

Officials say Jordan's economy has lost at least \$30 million over the past two years in surcharges because of the inspection.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Middle East Regional Office met with U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison Wednesday to voice ADC's concerns and points of views on various issues of importance in the Middle East.

The issues addressed at the meeting included the concern over the damage done by Israel's expulsion of 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

ADC President Nidal Sukhtian said that it is widely believed that this act of expulsion was a premeditated move by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin to stall the peace talks.

ADC said Israel's lack of immediate implementation of U.N. Resolution 799 calling for the immediate repatriation of the expelled has caused great concern over the "double standard" of implementing U.N. resolutions.

The compromise reached by Israel and the U.S. on the issue of the 400 expelled Palestinians is not adequate and falls short of Arab expectations of the U.N.

and the U.S., ADC said.

These expulsions have also succeeded in moving other obstacles which have been addressed by the Palestinian delegation out of the spotlight, ADC asserted.

The ADC also expressed its view that the U.N. should take definite action to prevent future expulsions by Israel.

Other issues discussed with Ambassador Harrison included the continued financing of Israel by the United States which is seen as continued support of Israel's actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a letter to the U.S. ambassador, Mr. Sukhtian said "international law remains broken until each and every last one of the 396 expellees is allowed to return home. 'International law must be upheld, and upheld in its entirety. And none other knows better than you that justice delayed is justice denied'."

During the meeting, Mr. Harrison reaffirmed the U.S. government's opinion that the expulsions are contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention.

## ADC meets U.S. envoy, voices Mideast concern

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Saturday is expected to approve a new draft labour law which the government will present to Lower House of Parliament next week, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi said Wednesday.

Mr. Hindawi made the announcement at a House session after arguing that deputy Bassam Haddadin had no legal right to question Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on the "delay in drafting the new law."

Accusing government of delaying the law which it said it would prepare in its policy statement to the House in December 1991, for political reasons, Mr. Haddadin said the government had made a legal violation that prompts questioning.

"Delaying the new law," he said, "is an attempt to maintain the current labour law which is biased in favour of employers."

Mr. Haddadin who argued his case in a language ringing with socialist terminology, dropped his questioning of Mr. Kabariti after Mr. Hindawi said the law will be completed next week.

Mr. Hindawi, Mr. Kabariti and other deputies, however, said Mr. Haddadin's questioning of Mr. Kabariti was illegal.

## Cabinet expected to approve draft labour law Deputies dispute legality of questioning its delay

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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Bassam Haddadin

"The Constitution stipulated a mechanism for questioning ministers on their handling of public issues," said Mr. Hindawi.

Drafting the law is a joint responsibility for which the labour minister should not be held accountable, he said, adding that the draft law on labour was the government's initiative and it is thus not legally bound to present it to the House within any time limit.

Mr. Hindawi said the government refuses to be treated like a suspect and "asked questions in a moody and emotional way."

Mr. Kabariti explained that drafting the new labour legislation required cooperation among employers, labour unions and the



Abdul Karim Al Kabariti

government and thus took a long time to prepare.

He rejected Mr. Haddadin's questioning as illegal, stating that "Mr. Haddadin knows that I am not less concerned than he is with finishing the new law."

During its two-hour session, the House decided to discuss the government pricing system and plans to introduce new taxes next Wednesday, and delayed discussion of a draft sales tax law until deputies receive a government explanation of the reasons necessitating the new law as stipulated by the Constitution.

The House referred to its Judiciary Committee a proposal by 14 deputies to amend Article 86 of the Constitution.

The amendment aims at giving every parliamentarian immunity from detention or trial unless a majority of the House decides that there is "sufficient reason to arrest or try him, or he is arrested, flagrante delicto, in which case, the House must be immediately informed."

Article 86 gives parliamentarians such immunity except when Parliament is not in session.

In such cases, the government is constitutionally obliged to "notify (Parliament), when it reassembles, of the proceedings, which were taken against (arrested deputies) coupled with the necessary explanation."

Asking the government to draft a new law that reflects the democratic orientation of the country, the House approved the decision of its Judiciary Committee to abolish the public gatherings law of 1953.

Under the current law, public gatherings have to be approved by administrative governors who have the right to disperse them with the use of force if they break the law or discuss issues other than those mentioned in the approval request.

The House also approved a draft law on building codes and specifications in the country, an economic and technical cooperation agreement with China and referred a number of proposals to its various committees.

## Afro-Asian meeting focuses on rural problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, like many other Third World countries, is struggling against poverty, hunger and illiteracy and looks to regional and international cooperation to overcome such problems, according to Asem Ghosheh, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment secretary general.

"To stem these ills, the Jordanian government is giving priority to implementing socio-economic projects in the rural regions of the country and enlisting the help of various organisations to achieve this goal," Mr. Ghosheh said in an address to the general conference of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) Wednesday.

Jordan supports Afro-Asian cooperation in rural development and calls for the creation of a

special fund to finance projects in rural areas, Mr. Ghosheh said.

In its drive to stem the continued move of people from rural to urban regions, the Jordanian government is trying to find employment for people in their own regions, he said, adding that the government is promoting agricultural production, and is expanding services, he said.

His Majesty King Hussein has directed the government to exert major efforts to execute rural development plans in order to improve the living conditions of the people in the rural districts, the secretary general said.

Mr. Ghosheh said the government was laying the infrastructure for such projects to include social development, education, and vocational training with the aim of reducing differences between the villages and the cities.

Mr. Ghosheh said the AARRO conference, which opened on Feb. 4, will involve discussion of the creation of a special rural development fund for Asia and Africa, prepare a three-year training programme for personnel in the two continents, encourage countries to exchange expertise in combating poverty and improving the living conditions of residents in the rural areas, as well as other topics.

He said Jordan was elected as a member of the conference's group of experts charged with preparing a study on the organisation's future projects.

The AARRO, founded in 1962, aims to restructure the economy of the rural masses in Africa and Asia and explore opportunities for coordination of efforts to promote welfare and eradicate malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and poverty among rural people.

## Awqaf Ministry to begin registration of pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Wednesday announced plans for registration of would-be pilgrims wishing to perform this year's pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina.

Muslims have one month between Feb. 13 and March 14 to register with the ministry, which undertakes arrangements for the pilgrimage, according to Minister of Awqaf Sheikh Izzeddin Tamimi.

The minister told a press conference that Muslims from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip can register for the pilgrimage between Feb. 13 and March 14 at any of the departments of Awqaf in their regions.

Pilgrims should not entrust mediators with the mission of registration, because the ministry and its affiliated departments will not accept such practices, the minister said.

The ministry has taken measures to ensure the smooth registration of the pilgrims and will offer the chance for more contractors than last year to help it carry out the procedures.

Sheikh Tamimi said the contractors will undertake the task of providing round-trip transportation for pilgrims to the holy places, accommodations and other needs as specified in agreements to be signed with the ministry.

The minister added that a ministry mission together with a health team will accompany the pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

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## Charity group to provide aid to poor during Holy Month

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Human Appeal International (HAI), a charity organisation, which spends about JD 1.6 million in Jordan annually, plans to distribute food, clothing and cash to needy families in the Kingdom during the upcoming Holy Month of Ramadan.

Adham Akel, spokesman for the organisation's office established in Amman in 1989, told the Jordan Times that HAI cares for 2,150 needy families in Jordan, providing them with in-kind assistance, and distributes food supplies and clothing to orphans at home or in institutions.

HAI has a list of 676 orphans who receive regular assistance, education and medical care, Mr. Akel said.

The JD 1.6 million annual expenditure in Jordan covers the needs of the orphans, contributions to needy families and other related activities, he added.

HAI has just completed the distribution of five tonnes of garments to 500 needy families in rural and urban regions of the country and will soon distribute food and fuel to people in the remote regions, according to Mr. Akel.

He said HAI, which is based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is a non-governmental organisation with 22 offices around the world.

HAI strives to raise funds in European countries and in the Gulf states for charity purposes and conducts its activities in the poor countries of Asia and Africa," he added.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Iran's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Rafsanjani continued good health and happiness and the Iranian people further progress and prosperity.

#### Princess Nafi'a opens exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Nafi'a opened Wednesday at Alia Art Gallery an art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hayat Jameel Hafez. The exhibition, which will run until Feb. 19, presents 71 watercolours depicting the countryside in Jordan and Iraq.

#### Jordan, China discuss scientific ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Zhang De Liang Wednesday visited the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), where he met with HCST Secretary-General Hani Al Mulki, who is also RSS president. The meeting, which was attended by heads of the HCST's various sections, reviewed means of enhancing scientific and technological cooperation between Jordan and China. It also focused on ways to follow up the implementation of the Jordanian-Chinese science and technology cooperation agreement. Preparations in Jordan are currently under way to form delegations comprising academics and specialists in various fields to visit Chinese scientific and technological institutions.

#### JUST head meets sportsmen

RAMTHA (Petra) — President of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Kamel Al Ajlouni met Wednesday with members of the university's sports teams and stressed the university's keen interest in supporting all sports activities on the university's campus. Dr. Ajlouni said the university always welcomes holding sports matches with teams from other Jordanian universities and community colleges as well as teams from the Armed Forces and Jordanian sports clubs.

#### N. Korean parliamentarians to arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — A North Korean parliamentary delegation headed by the speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly will arrive in Amman Friday on a week-long visit to Jordan. The delegation will meet with senior Jordanian officials for talks on bilateral relations and will visit various Jordanian institutions and universities to get acquainted with the development witnessed by Jordan in various fields.

#### Campaign for environment protection starts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for Combating Environmental Pollution will Sunday organise, in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, an environmental awareness campaign in Irbid. The four-day programme will include a seminar on environment management, which will tackle the water problem in Jordan and proposed solutions, the role of voluntary societies in combating environmental pollution, health care and family planning schemes.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the Americana Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Nab'a at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatmal at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhais city.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jammal, Helen Khal, Saba Nour and Afaf Zayarak — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles.
- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Jean-Philippe Reverdot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Hayat Jameel Hafez at Alia Art Gallery.

### BALLET

- ★ "Cités Citées" ballet performed by "Plaisir d'Offrir" group at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

### FIELD TRIP

- ★ The Friends of Archaeology are organising a field trip to Pella on Friday. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot at 9 a.m.

### MUSICAL THEATRE

- ★ Video of the musical "Damn Yankees" at the Americana Centre at 5 p.m.

## Tunisian minister visits Jordan U.

AMMAN (Petra) — Al Muneef Abdul Jalil, an advisor to the Tunisian Minister of Education currently in the Kingdom, Wednesday visited the University of Jordan.

Mr. Abdul Jalil met with Dean of the Faculty of Sharia Yassin Daradkeh who briefed him on the establishment of the faculty, its objectives and the services it offers to the local society.

The Tunisian official also met with Dean of the Faculty of Education Sami Khasawneh.

Dr. Khasawneh briefed the guest on the faculty's educational programmes and its role in developing the educational sector in Jordan.

## THE RANCH

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# Sporadic clashes continue in Bosnia

**BELGRADE (R)** — Fighting flared in isolated pockets across the war zones of Bosnia and Croatia Wednesday as the United States looked set to commit ground troops for the first time to aid peace efforts.

In Washington, a Clinton administration official said sending U.S. ground troops to Bosnia to help enforce a peace agreement was part of new U.S. initiative likely to be announced formally this week.

The official, who declined to be named, said the American troops would go as part of a United Nations or North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) peacekeeping force once the Serbs, Croats and Muslims agree to a ceasefire.

President Bill Clinton is working on a peace initiative that would include the use of troops, fighter jets, humanitarian aid and the appointment of a special envoy to help reach a ceasefire accord, the official said.

Yugoslav peace negotiator Lord Owen dismissed suggestions that he might resign if Mr. Clinton appointed his own special envoy, telling British Broadcasting Corporation Radio: "I don't think there is any problem with that at all."

Lord Owen and fellow mediator Cyrus Vance, U.S. secretary of state in the last Democratic administration before Mr. Clinton's inauguration last month, have met resistance in Washington

over their tortuously-negotiated peace formula to divide Bosnia into 10 semi-autonomous provinces.

Lord Owen said on late night U.S. television that around 25,000 troops would be needed to implement a peace plan and said the U.S. should send about 5,000 of them.

Currently there are 7,500 peacekeepers in Bosnia, the bulk of them from Britain and France. Only Bosnia's Croats have accepted the three-part package, which has been rejected by Muslims as rewarding Serb aggression and opposed by the Serbs on the grounds of its territorial divisions.

The war zones of Bosnia and neighbouring Croatia, where Croat troops are fighting rebel Serbs holding the enclave of Krajina, were largely quiet during the night and early Wednesday.

In eastern Bosnia, clashes were reported in several areas close to the Serbian border with heavy shelling of Muslim-held towns and villages.

Bosnian radio said 54 people were killed and 109 wounded by artillery attacks on the town of Srebrenica and the nearby outpost of Cerska.

The capital Sarajevo, where 380,000 people have been under siege since civil war over Bosnia's declaration of independence erupted 10 months ago, was quiet during the morning with only sniper fire reported in the centre and Novo Sarajevo suburb.

U.N. mediators met with Serb and Muslim representatives for a second day at the airport, which is being used by relief flights to bring in food and medicine, in a bid to broker a ceasefire while electricity and water service repairs are carried out around the city.

A French photographer working for the Sygma Photo Agency was wounded Tuesday by a sniper bullet that hit him in the throat, officials said.

The photographer, Antoine Gyor, was treated by U.N. doctors in Sarajevo, said U.N. spokesman Maj. Jose Gallegos.

"He's out of danger," Gallegos said. "He was very lucky."

Sygma editor-in-chief Claude Thierset said in Paris that Gyor was driving with another French photographer when he was hit.

"The bullet came in from the right side, passed through the jacket of his passenger and hit him in the throat," Mr. Thierset said.

Fighting resumed in several areas on the Krajina borders Wednesday, the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug reported.

It said there were artillery exchanges along a broad front east and south of the port of Zadar established after Croatian forces drove into Serb-held areas on Jan. 22 and seized a string of strategic targets.

It quoted Krajina Serb forces as saying that in one clash 16 members of a 25-man Croatian patrol had been killed.

Meanwhile, anxious to return from a post-cold war vacation, NATO awaits a call from the United Nations to enter the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

The alliance has drawn up military plans for everything from safe havens for war victims, requiring thousands of troops, to enforcement of a no-fly zone, requiring about 100 planes.

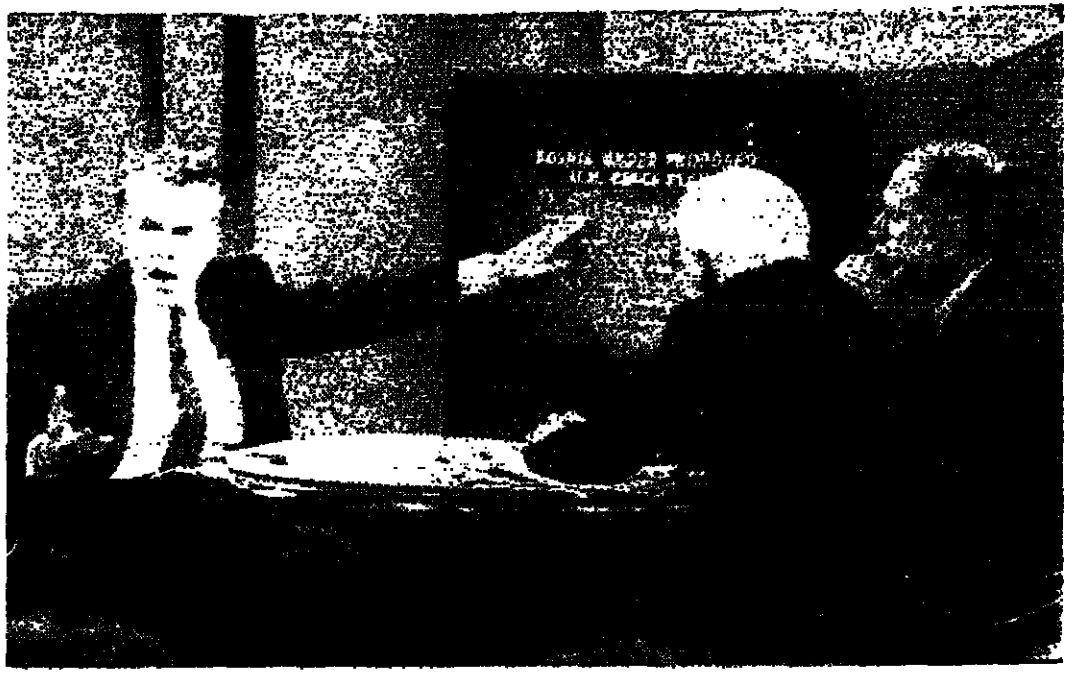
But it has not received the go ahead it needs from the U.N. Security Council to put any measures into effect.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner has said the alliance might have to use military force in Bosnia.

If and when it does get the U.N. nod, the 16 nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will be ready. With instructions from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, the alliance has drawn up a variety of contingency plans.

At the top of the list are measures for enforcing a no-fly-zone over Bosnia. The U.N. Security Council imposed an edict last October to clear the skies of military flights by Serbs. But no enforcement measures were adopted.

NATO's policing options include tightening enforcement at airports, using Western planes to keep the Bosnian Serbs grounded or escort them out of the zone; damaging airfields; or shooting down warplanes violating the ban.



Lord David Owen (left), co-chairman of the international conference on Bosnia, appears on the Phil Donahue Show to discuss the proposed mapping of Bosnia along ethnic lines. Donahue is centre and Dave Marsh of the Nightline television programme is right (AFP photo)

## France to help Hanoi with embargo

**HANOI (R)** — Vietnam has won an important promise of more French financial aid and help in ending a U.S. embargo, but was also given a lecture by French President Francois Mitterrand on democracy and respect for human rights.

Mr. Mitterrand, the first Western head of state to visit Vietnam since the Vietnam War, said at an official banquet in Hanoi Tuesday night that France wanted to open a new chapter with its former Indochinese colony.

He said France would double its 1992 aid to Vietnam this year and indicated it would step up international efforts to bring an end to the U.S. embargo.

Mr. Mitterrand praised free-market reforms that have opened Communist Vietnam's economy to the outside world, but said the rare peace, stability and growth the country now enjoyed paved the way for greater civil liberties.

"The bipolar division of the world is dead. The cold war has ended," he said. "Freedom that has long been oppressed is trying everywhere to express itself."

"Respect for human rights has become a universal requirement, with its inseparable companion economic development."

Mr. Mitterrand's comments were contained in a 25-minute speech at the dinner hosted by Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh, a general who fought against French colonial forces as a young revolutionary.

Mr. Mitterrand held talks with Mr. Anh and Communist Party General-Secretary Do Muoi after arriving in Hanoi Tuesday.

On Wednesday he was due to meet Pham Van Dong, a former prime minister and contemporary of late President Ho Chi Minh.

Mr. Dong, now 86 and nearly blind, was held by the French on Pulo Condore Prison Island from 1929 until 1936.

Mr. Mitterrand spoke of a sometimes painful past, when France ruled Vietnam for nearly a century until 1954.

"I am here to close a chapter, and even more so, to open another. I believe there remains a real affinity between our peoples, which wants only to blossom," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand was due to fly

Wednesday to Dien Bien Phu, near the Laotian border, where forces led by General Vo Nguyen Giap defeated a French army unit in 1954, and ended colonial rule.

Gen. Giap, now white-haired and a retired defence minister, sat on Mr. Mitterrand's left at the banquet.

Mr. Mitterrand said Paris would double aid to Hanoi in 1993, but gave no details. France gave Vietnam \$26 million in 1992.

France would also help Vietnam gain access to badly-needed technology and to technical and financial assistance, and would push for an end to the embargo imposed by Washington on Hanoi in 1964, he said.

The United States extended those sanctions to all of Vietnam in 1975 when Hanoi's forces defeated the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government and reunified the country.

Washington also bans the transfer to Vietnam of much high technology — made in the United States and elsewhere — and blocks World Bank and International Monetary Fund loans to Hanoi.

man Eric Falt.

At the same meeting, UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi announced that campaigning for the election would start on April 7.

Mr. Akashi admitted that UNTAC has not yet been able to create a neutral political environment throughout the country.

There have been frequent acts of political violence in recent months, including assassinations of politicians opposed to the government and bombings of party offices.

Among the wounded in the attack at Siem Reap was a 27-year-old Portuguese tour group leader, Cesar De Paço, who was hit by a stray rifle bullet in his hotel room.

Mr. De Paço, from the Azores Islands, needed eight stitches to his head but was well enough to travel back to Phnom Penh.

The UNTAC spokesman said 30 attackers wearing a mixture of factional uniforms, entered the town on motorcycles at around 1.30 a.m., firing indiscriminately. They used automatic rifles, grenades and rocket-propelled grenades.

An Australian army signaller fired 12 shots back at the attackers.

## U.S. reminds N. Korea of nuclear obligations

**WASHINGTON (Agencies)** — The U.S. State Department in a subdued response to recent strong words from North Korea, said it was disappointed in North Korea's refusal to allow inspectors full access to its nuclear sites.

Spokesman Richard Boucher said he had no specific reaction to recent warnings from Pyongyang of possible countermeasures if the United States and other nations exert too much pressure on the nuclear issue. But he repeated a call for North Korean compliance to nuclear treaty obligations.

U.S. officials said there were no plans to cancel the U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises, Team Spirit. The exercises were skipped last year in an apparent effort to encourage North-South dialogue, and North Korea has demanded that they be cancelled again this year.

"We welcome North Korea's past cooperation with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," Mr. Boucher said. "However, the U.S. and others are obviously concerned that North Korea has denied the IAEA access to certain sites at its Yongbyon nuclear complex."

"The North, which denies that it is developing a nuclear arms capability, argued that Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, was not included in the original IAEA inspection list."

The United States, Japan and other Western nations have refused to provide any economic assistance to North Korea until the nuclear issue is settled.

"North Korea has an obligation under the non-proliferation treaty and under the safeguards agreement, which they signed with the IAEA, to permit the inspections and, therefore, to accept proceed irrespective of other things," Mr. Boucher said.

Meanwhile a group of Russian nuclear scientists was prevented at the last moment from boarding a plane to North Korea to work on developing weapons last October, ITAR-TASS News Agency says.

Its report seemed certain to heighten Western fears that disenchanted, low-paid Russian scientists might be tempted to sell their secrets to the highest Third World bidder.

The agency Tuesday quoted a Security Ministry official in Chelyabinsk, a major industry centre in the Urals where Soviet nuclear weapons were built, as saying the group was stopped from boarding a flight from Moscow in October.

The official, Valery Tretyakov, said they were "engineering and technical workers involved with the problem of strategic rocket forces."

He added: "As far as we have been able to work out, this whole action was conducted deliberately by the (North) Korean side to take advantage of Russian scientific potential to modernise its rocket armaments in the shortest possible time."

Two quite senior North Korean diplomats had been expelled from Moscow within 24 hours of the incident, he said.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Yeltsin to hold talks with rival

**MOSCOW (R)** — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will meet his main conservative rival Russian Khasbulatov Thursday to try and resolve the power struggle between the two men. Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman said Wednesday that constitutional court Chairman Valery Zorkin would also be present at the meeting, in the Kremlin. Mr. Zorkin has sought to mediate in the power struggle between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian parliament, which has hamstrung economic reform. "In the president's words, the meeting will be about political ways to overcome the state crisis, questions concerning a referendum formula, tensions between different branches of power and the search for better interaction between the highest echelons of state power," the spokesman said.

### Angola rebels postpone peace talks

**LUANDA, Angola (AP)** — The government appealed Tuesday for U.S. diplomatic recognition, as UNITA rebels pulled out of peace talks scheduled for this week and hopes for a quick ceasefire in Angola's reignited civil war dimmed. Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi asked for a week's delay, saying fierce fighting in central Angola blocked UNITA negotiators from crossing the front lines to reach the talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a U.N. official said. UNITA returned to the battlefield on Oct. 31 after losing elections held under a 1991 peace plan that ended Angola's devastating, 16-year civil war.

### Zaire MPs refuse to replace premier

**KINSHASA (R)** — Zaire's transitional parliament has rejected President Mobutu Sese Seko's order to pick a new prime minister, setting the stage for further confrontation in the crisis-bound central African country. Delegates reported a meeting of the opposition-dominated High Council of the Republic (HCR) said Mr. Mobutu's demand that they replace his arch-enemy Etienne Tshisekedi as premier was outside his jurisdiction under rules for multi-party reforms laid down last year by a pro-democracy conference. "The president's request was declared unacceptable," HCR member Lucien Tshimpumpu told Reuters after the day-long session. Mr. Mobutu signed an order Saturday firing Mr. Tshisekedi, blaming him for army riots in late January in which several hundred people were killed. The strongman president, who has ruled Zaire with an iron hand for 28 years, has threatened to "take matters into his own hands" if the HCR fails to name an alternative candidate.

### Dutch parliament sanctions mercy killing

**THE HAGUE (AP)** — The Netherlands adopted the most liberal euthanasia guidelines in Europe after years of keeping the widely accepted practice in legal limbo. Although the legislation approved by parliament stops short of legalisation, it guarantees physicians immunity from prosecution if they follow strict guidelines for mercy killing. The compromise was an attempt to placate right-to-lifers opposed to repealing the ban on euthanasia entirely, while giving legal protection to physicians performing the thousands of mercy killings believed to occur yearly. Euthanasia is still punishable by up to 12 years in prison. Many Dutch view euthanasia as a generally humane practice, but conservative religious groups warned the nation is steadily losing respect for human life.

### Paper vows to see British queen in court

**LONDON (AP)** — The Sun newspaper has defied a legal deadline set by Queen Elizabeth II and said it would defend in court its scoop of her annual Christmas speech. A Buckingham Palace spokesman confirmed last Tuesday that the queen would press ahead with a lawsuit against the tabloid. The queen's lawyer, Sir Matthew Farrer, received an unsatisfactory response from the Sun at midday, the unidentified spokesman said, therefore "the writ will be issued and the Sun has been informed." The queen's lawyers wrote last week to the Sun demanding damages and costs from the newspaper for publishing a leaked text of her address two days before it was broadcast. They warned that the matter would proceed to court unless a settlement was agreed within seven days. Daniel Taylor, company lawyer for News Group Newspapers, had said earlier in the day that the threat of legal action seemed out of proportion.

### Valentine bomber says it with roses

**BANGKOK (R)** — Police said a bomb hidden in a box of Valentine's Day red roses exploded at a Bangkok branch post office Wednesday, killing a postman and injuring five other people. They said the bomb exploded when the official franked the box containing the roses. The post office was cordoned off as police searched amongst red roses and bloodstains for more bombs. No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion.

### Satellite launched from B-52 bomber

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R)** — A rocket-borne satellite to monitor Brazil's fragile rain forests sped into orbit after being launched from the wing of a flying B-52 bomber. "Very good shooting by the Pegasus team," David Thompson, president of Orbital Sciences Corp., the maker of the rocket, told reporters soon after the B-52 carried it to a release point 43,000 feet (13,100 metres) above the Earth.

## Azeris, Armenians report battles in Karabakh

**MOSCOW (R)** — Fierce fighting between Azeris and Armenians raged in the disputed Caucasian territory of Nagorno-Karabakh Tuesday and many people were killed, both sides reported.

The Azeri Defence Ministry, quoted by ITAR-TASS News Agency, said its forces had contained a major Armenian offensive on all fronts in northern Nagorno-Karabakh.

But the Armenians were still holding on to four of seven villages they captured last Friday and Saturday, it said.

Armenian armour and troops also attacked near the town of Agdam, just east of the enclave, after a big artillery bombardment. Both sides suffered heavy casualties in fierce fighting, the Azeris said.

Armenian military headquarters in Nagorno-Karabakh, quoted by local agencies and Radio Yerevan, said Armenian forces were still advancing in the territory. It said Azeri forces were fleeing.

More than 2,500 people have been killed in five years of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, populated by Armenians but put under Azeri control by the Kremlin in 1923.

In Geneva, the leaders of Armenia's and Azerbaijan's religious communities Tuesday appealed for peace in the Caucasian conflict after a three-day meeting in Switzerland.

## U.S. armed services propose sharp cuts

**WASHINGTON (R)** — The U.S. Armed Forces have proposed sharp cuts in planes, ships and weapons to reduce the 1994 military budget by up to \$10.8 billion, defence officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the navy wanted to cancel the overhaul of the aircraft carrier Forrestal and to retire it along with about 10 other warships next year.

They said the air force offered to stop buying F-16 fighters, slow production of the C-17 cargo jet and eliminate two active fighter wings and part of a reserve wing totalling over 150 planes.

The cuts were sought last week by Defence Secretary Les Aspin and submitted by the services Monday as part of a plan by President Bill Clinton to cut \$60 billion from defence spending over the next five years.

But the officials confirmed some details of the cuts reported by the New York Times, including the army's offer to cancel the advanced Tow anti-tank missile and several other programmes and to slow some 25 weapons programmes.

They could not confirm the Times report that the air force had also proposed cancelling a \$27 million communications satellite programme.

The budget cuts are part of a Clinton plan to cut the U.S. Armed Forces from their current total of 1.8 million troops to 1.4 million by 1997. U.S. troop strength in Europe would be cut from 180,000 to 100,000.

Mr. Aspin last week ordered the navy to cut \$3 billion from the \$82 billion budget proposed by former President George Bush for fiscal 1994.

The air force was ordered to cut \$2.8 billion from its \$81.4 billion total proposed by Mr. Bush and the army was told to remove \$2.5 billion from its \$64.1 billion 1994 budget.

The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) anti-missile research programme, commonly known as Star Wars, was told to slash \$2.5 billion.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wants to leave office a few months before the end of his term, in part because he does not want to defend military budget cuts he feels are too large.

Quoting close associates of General Powell's, the paper said he had told Mr. Aspin of his desire to leave his post early, and had also informed former Defence Secretary Dick Cheney several months ago of his wishes.

The report said Gen. Powell wanted to give his successor more time to win influence this summer in shaping the Pentagon's budget, and that the general also told Mr. Cheney he would not remain for a third two-year term as chairman even if President George Bush had been re-elected.

The New York Times said friends and associates of Gen. Powell said his desire for early retirement was only reinforced by his series of public clashes with President Bill Clinton over ending the ban on gays in the military and budget cuts for the armed forces.

"There's no question Colin will be confronted repeatedly with having to carry out new policy guidance that may be at odds with his previous public positions," the newspaper quoted one associate as saying.

But another said, "this has nothing to do with the gays issue. This is a personal thing that he decided last year. He's told Aspin...if it's convenient with them, he'd rather leave in late spring or early summer."

Mr. Aspin is reportedly considering Gen. Powell's request but has yet to issue a recommendation to Mr. Clinton on how long Gen. Powell, 55, should stay on. Friends and associates of Gen. Powell told the newspaper there was no personal rivalry between the general and either Mr. Clinton or Mr. Aspin.

President Clinton Tuesday elevated the director of drug control to cabinet level but slashed dozens of jobs from the agency he runs.

In reducing the four-year-old Office of National Drug Control Policy from 146 employees to 25, the White House charged the office had become "dumping ground for political appointees" under former President George Bush.

Democratic members of Congress were heartened that Mr. Clinton had raised the drug control director to cabinet status.

Representative Charles

Rangel, a New York Democrat who is chairman of the House Narcotics Committee, said the decision will advance the drug abuse policy "by leaps and bounds."

"One of the greatest failings of the drug czar's office under former President Bush was that it became a way station for political and patronage employees," Mr. Rangel said.

In addition, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden said Mr. Clinton sent a "strong signal today that he is serious about attacking this nation's drug crisis."

President Clinton, saying "government must do more and make do with less," also announced Tuesday he will cut 350 White House staff jobs.

Mr. Clinton said his move, which officials estimate will save \$10 million a year, will comply with a campaign promise to reduce the White House staff by 25 per cent and will lead to a "leaner, more effective government."

"This is one of the few times this century that any president has actually shrunk the size of the White House staff," Mr. Clinton told reporters during an appearance in the White House press room.

He said other departments and agencies would be asked to make some cuts as well as a sign to the American people that he is serious about reducing the cost of government and cutting back on a deficit that reached a record \$300 billion last year.

## COLUMN

### German burgled 21 times in S. Africa

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — German Arnold Musch believes he could be the world's most burgled man — his home has been robbed for the 21st time in 12 years. "Everything I have built up over the last 20 years has slowly been stolen," Mr. Musch, 40, told reporters. He added he could no longer obtain household insurance because he was considered a bad risk. "I think perhaps I should move to Pretoria Central (prison). I would probably be safer there," he said.

### Rod Steiger wife celebrate birth of baby

**LOS ANGELES (R)** — Academy Award winning actor Rod Steiger's wife has given birth to a son, his publicist said. Paula Steiger, 32, gave birth to six-pound, seven-ounce (2.9kg) Michael Winston Steiger, at Santa Monica Hospital. It was 68-year-old Steiger's second child. He is the father of London-based opera star Anna Steiger, 33, whose mother is actress Claire Bloom. The actor's publicist said the baby had been named in honour of renaissance painter Michelangelo, and Sir Winston Churchill, Britain's World War II leader. Steiger won an Oscar for the 1967 film, In The Heat Of The Night.

### Britain to sell Greenham Common

**LONDON (R)** — Greenham Common Air Force Base, Britain's most potent symbol for anti-nuclear protesters, is to be sold, the government announced. It said open space on the base, built on a public common, would be preserved as a park. Buildings on the base would be allocated "for the benefit of the local community." Cruise missiles from the United States were based at Greenham Common, their arrival made the base a focus for anti-nuclear demonstrators. Women from all over Europe joined the peace camp that grew up near the wire ringing the base. There were periodic invasions of the base until the collapse of communism caused the withdrawal of the missiles and U.S. Air Force personnel in 1992.

### Druids may win access to Stonehenge

**LONDON (R)** — Druids may be allowed to celebrate the winter solstice at Stonehenge this December for the first time in nearly three years, authorities who control the ancient site said. English Heritage said it was considering allowing access to the giant stone circle, which has fascinated tourists for centuries and been used for ceremonies by religious groups. Restrictions on access introduced in 1988 to prevent huge convoys of travellers descending on Stonehenge particularly on the summer solstice. The ban, which has provoked violent confrontations between police and travellers in recent years, also hit the Druids, an ancient religious sect which regards Stonehenge as a holy place.

### Meteorite took 61 million years to reach earth

**TOKYO (R)** — A meteorite that fell on a house in western Japan may have travelled through space for 61 million years, a research spokesman said Wednesday. The 6.5-kg (14-lb), gourd-shaped meteorite is probably about 4.4 billion-years-old, the spokesman for the natural Science Museum in Tokyo said. The meteorite crashed through the roof, ceiling and floor of a company executive's house in Mibonoseki, Shimane Prefecture, on Dec. 10. Nobody was hurt. Measuring 24 cm (10 ins) long, 14 cm (six ins) wide and 10 cm (four ins) thick, the meteorite emits a rare radioactive substance called Scandium 44 and is packed with small stones, the spokesman said. He added that its journey through space was the second longest on record. The oldest meteorite, which landed in the Antarctic in 1974, is believed to have taken 92 million years to reach Earth.

### Horse manure may save world from sewage

**LONDON (R)** — Steaming horse manure may soon help purify the world of its malodorous mounds of sewage sludge. The manure is home to a newly identified, heat-loving bacteria that thrives on sludge.